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MARCH/APRIL 2009

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Volume 2, Issue 2

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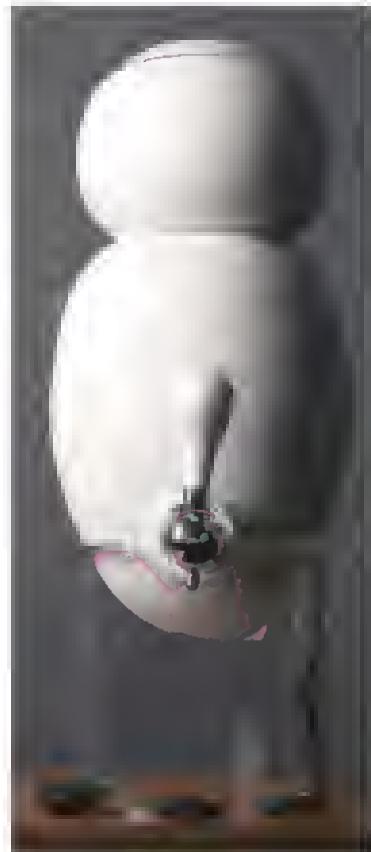
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## EDITORS NOTE

**A**t long last the days are getting longer, and what this means for winter-weary Canadians is that little by little, as March slides into April, there will be more and more light in our lives.

We wait a long time for the sun's return. And that's what the March/April issue of *Canadian Architecture & Design* is really about: Light. Whether it's leaf-dappled sunshine pouring into a Muskoka getaway, dawn flooding a condo bedroom high over English Bay, the gleam of a polished kitchen counter, the glow of hope on the horizon in an artist's landscape, or the shimmer of bronze and gold in a stunning glass sculpture, light is what fills these pages.

What's more, this issue is a tribute to a handful of respected designers from across the country. While their respective styles are as idiosyncratic and individual as they are, there is one thing they all share. And that is a commitment to brightening the places we live in, not just by bringing the outdoors in, but by using their magic to create the illusion of space and light, even when there is precious little out there.

These pages also include a celebration of the two most functional rooms in the house: kitchen and bath. And, we have introduced two new features, one highlighting an artist we think you should know about, and the other, a book that will feed your inner architect and delight the designer in you.

I hope you find something here that will bring light into your life. ♡

*Warm Regards  
Cecily Ross*



## next issue...

Pool & Patio Showcase

Backyard Living Ideas

Golf Course Architect

Thomas McBroom is profiled.





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# CONTRIBUTORS



**Philip Castleton (Practical Elegance)** moved to Canada from the UK after completing his education at Wrexham and the University of

York. He put down roots in Toronto ("in spite of the ghastly winters") and, after a stint as a cabinet maker, settled into commercial photography ("less dust"). Castleton travels throughout North America on photographic assignments for corporate clients.



## Sheree-Lee Olson (Balancing Act)



**Janet Collins (Unifying Forces)** Janet Collins is a British Columbia-based writer and associate editor at Canadian Interiors. Her work

has appeared in Canadian Architect, Canadian House and Home and Canadian Interiors. When she's not writing about design and architecture she spends her time creating fibre arts (weaving, felt and surface design).



**John Trigiani (Let the Sun Shine In)** John's images are the careful work of a thoughtful artist whose photography creates a rich and sometimes

surprising window of the world. John brings a tremendous sense of wonder and discovery to his work. His intuitive artistic touch and sense of design combine in every project he chooses. The shape, the texture, John's visceral feelings about what he sees guide each photograph.

His technological expertise, along with his dedication to his subject often leads to images that resonate, creating a distinct mood and feeling. Over his illustrious 19 year career, John's images have garnered him an ever-lengthening client list featuring such prestigious names as The Gap, HMV, Chanel, Toronto Life & Style and *at Home* magazine to name a few. ♦

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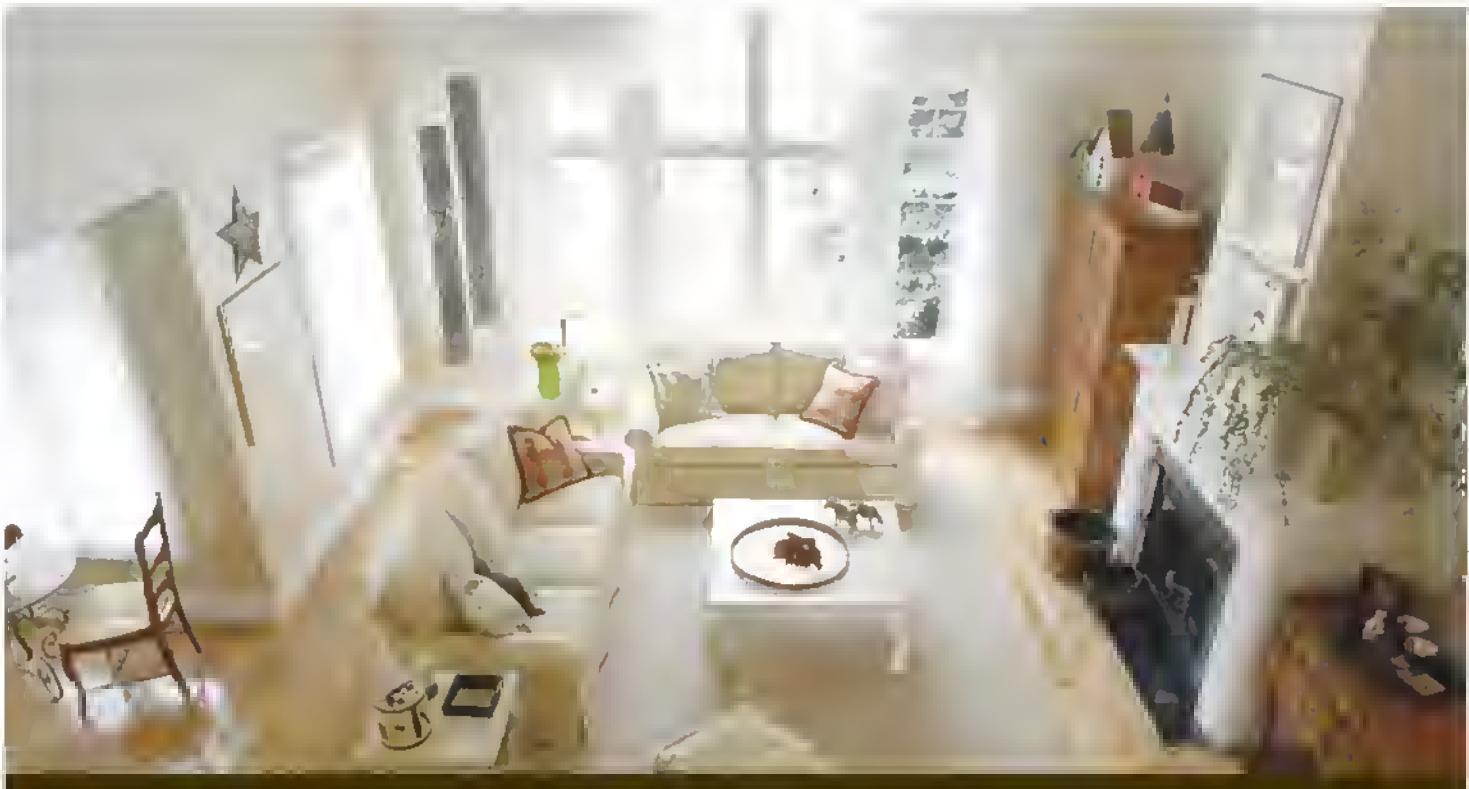
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## AUTUMN LEAVES ALIGHT



**F**orm and function come together like falling leaves in this original take on a traditional chandelier. The creation of glass artist Simon Peleg, the fixture evokes the tumbling sensation and bright hues of copper and gold leaves turning through sunny autumn skies.

Each translucent, textured colored-glass pendant is suspended by a wire thread attached to a 36-inch long by 12-inch wide dark brown metal ceiling plate. Part fixture, part work of art, the light casts a magical, warm glow on any space.

Peleg designed the piece for AM Studio, specialists in beautiful and

original glass, porcelain and crystal chandeliers, fixtures and sconces. The light shown here sells for \$2,500, but smaller versions with fewer pendants are also available.

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416-783-4100. [www.amstudio.ca](http://www.amstudio.ca) ♦  
— Cecily Ross



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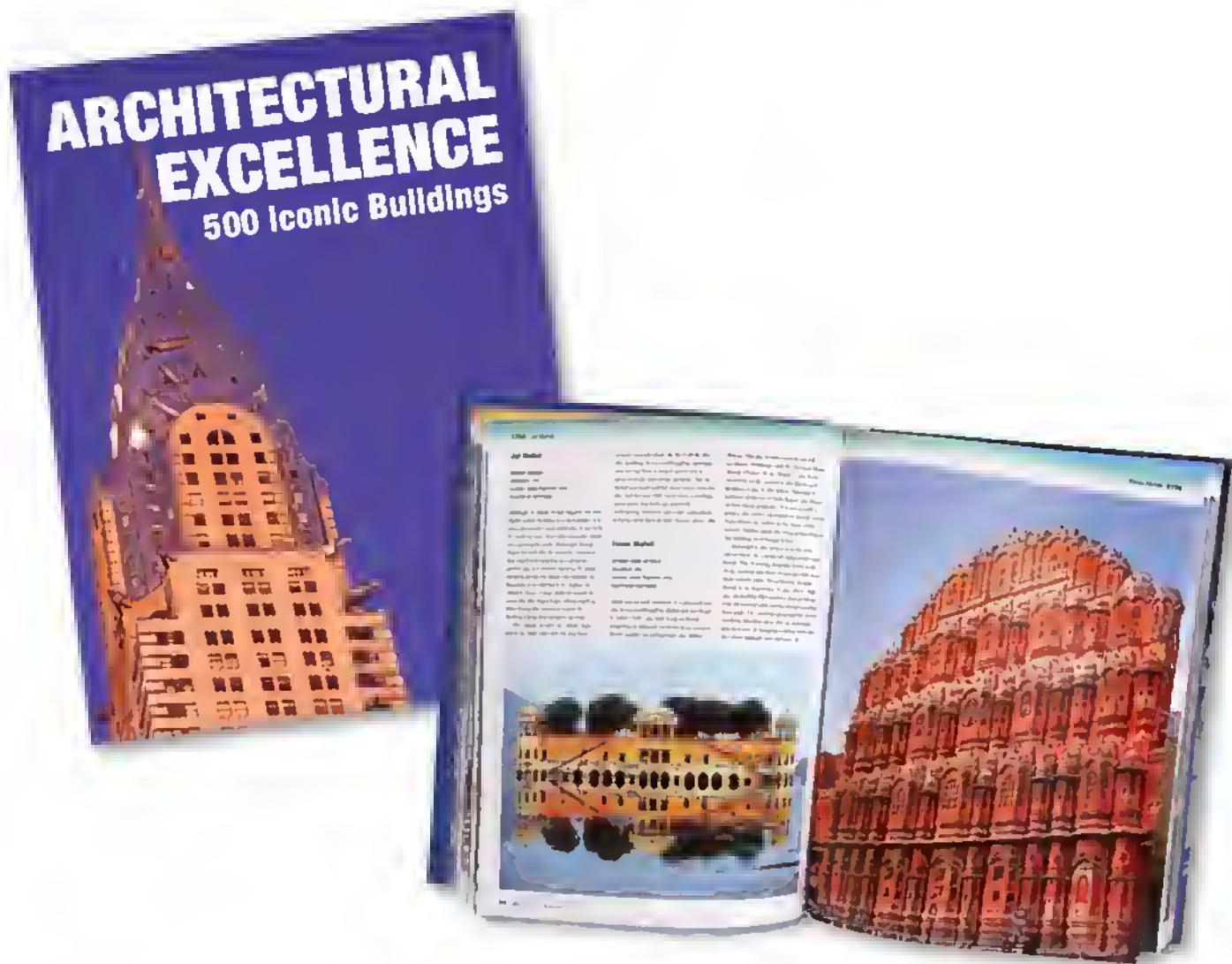
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## ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE: 500 Iconic Buildings

by Paul Cattermole (Firefly Books, \$49.95. 512 pages, ISBN: 1554073588)



The human architectural impulse has been around for 5,000 years and it's all here in this coffee-table compendium of 500 of the world's greatest buildings. Beginning with Turkey's ancient Citadel of Uchisar (around 3,000 BC) and including Barcelona, Spain's, not-yet completed Sagrada Família by Antoni Gaudí, Architectural Excellence pro-

vides an encyclopedic review of major architectural styles through the ages – from Roman and Islamic, to Art Deco and Art Nouveau, to Modernism and Deconstructionism.

Each of the 500 entries celebrates a distinguished architect: Ustad Ahmad Lahauri (The Taj Mahal), Philip Johnson (Glass House), Canada's Moshe Safdie (Habitat), Frank Lloyd Wright

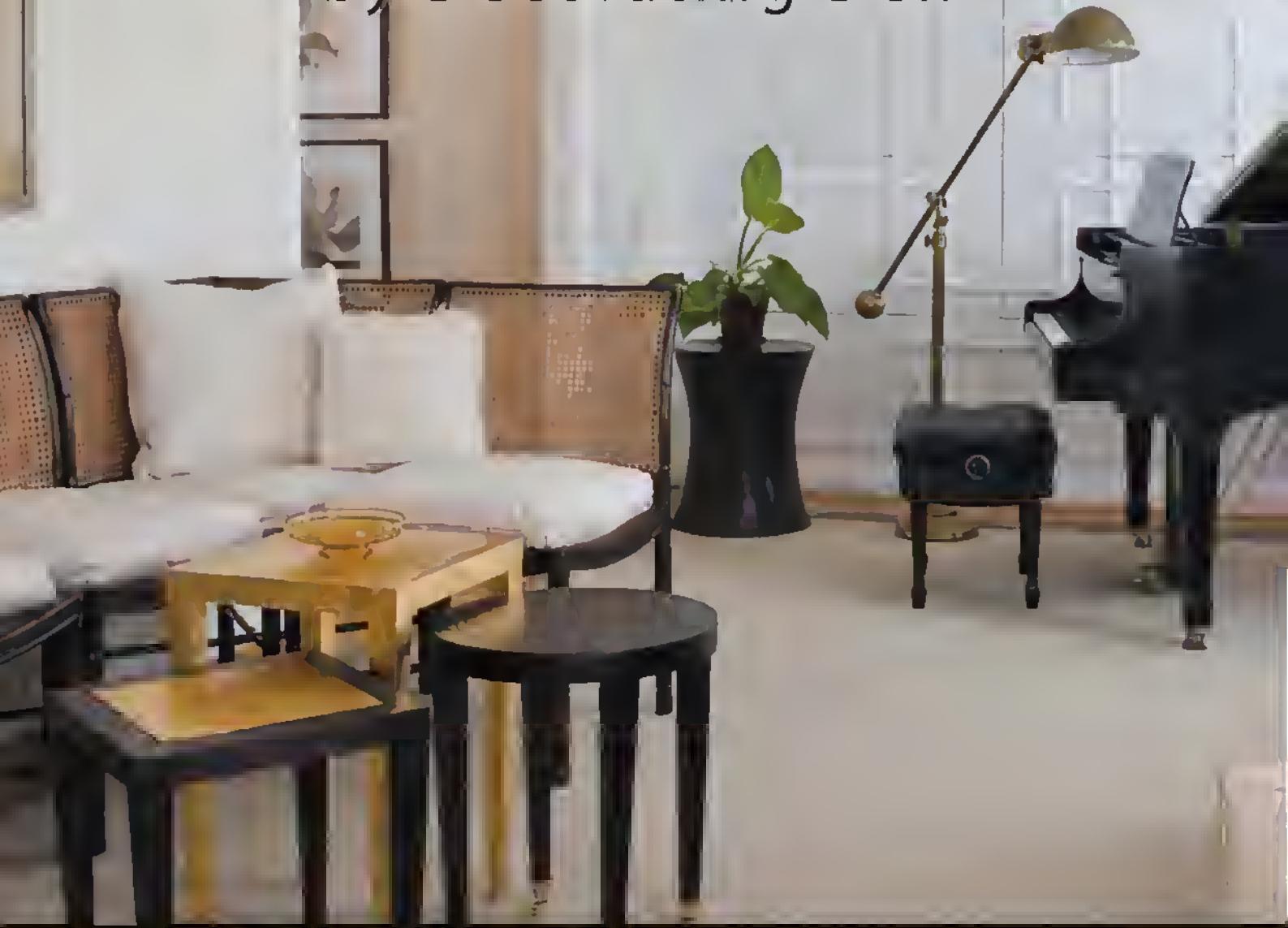
(Fallingbrook) and many more. Filled with lavish color photographs and written by London-based researcher Paul Cattermole, this is a book that will enlighten, entertain and inform.

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— Cecily Ross

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CHEERS

# Jackson-Triggs takes top honors at international wine festival — *again*



With the winter grape harvest completed, Jackson-Triggs' winemakers Amy Bond and Marco Piccoli are taking time out to toast their phenomenal success at last year's International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Named best Canadian winery at the London, Eng., event, Jackson-Triggs takes home the honor for the sixth time, bringing its "best winery" accolades to 19 in the past nine years.

"This is one of the greatest honors in my winemaking career," says Piccoli. "What a terrific way for Amy and I to toast the completion of this year's harvest."

Jackson-Triggs' icewines dominated the winery's medal winnings at the IWSC with its Proprietor's Reserve Vidal Icewine 2006 and Proprietor's

Grand Reserve Riesling Icewine 2006 both awarded Gold and Best of Class.

For the winemaking process, Piccoli and Bond use a three-tiered gravity-flow system to maximize quality and minimize filtration of the wine. Some of the most advanced equipment from around the world provides an extraordinary level of flexibility and control, including open-top fermenters, ultra-modern roto-fermenters, drainers, moveable bladder presses, and stainless-steel storage filtration tanks.

And while most of the gold, silver and bronze-medal winning wines



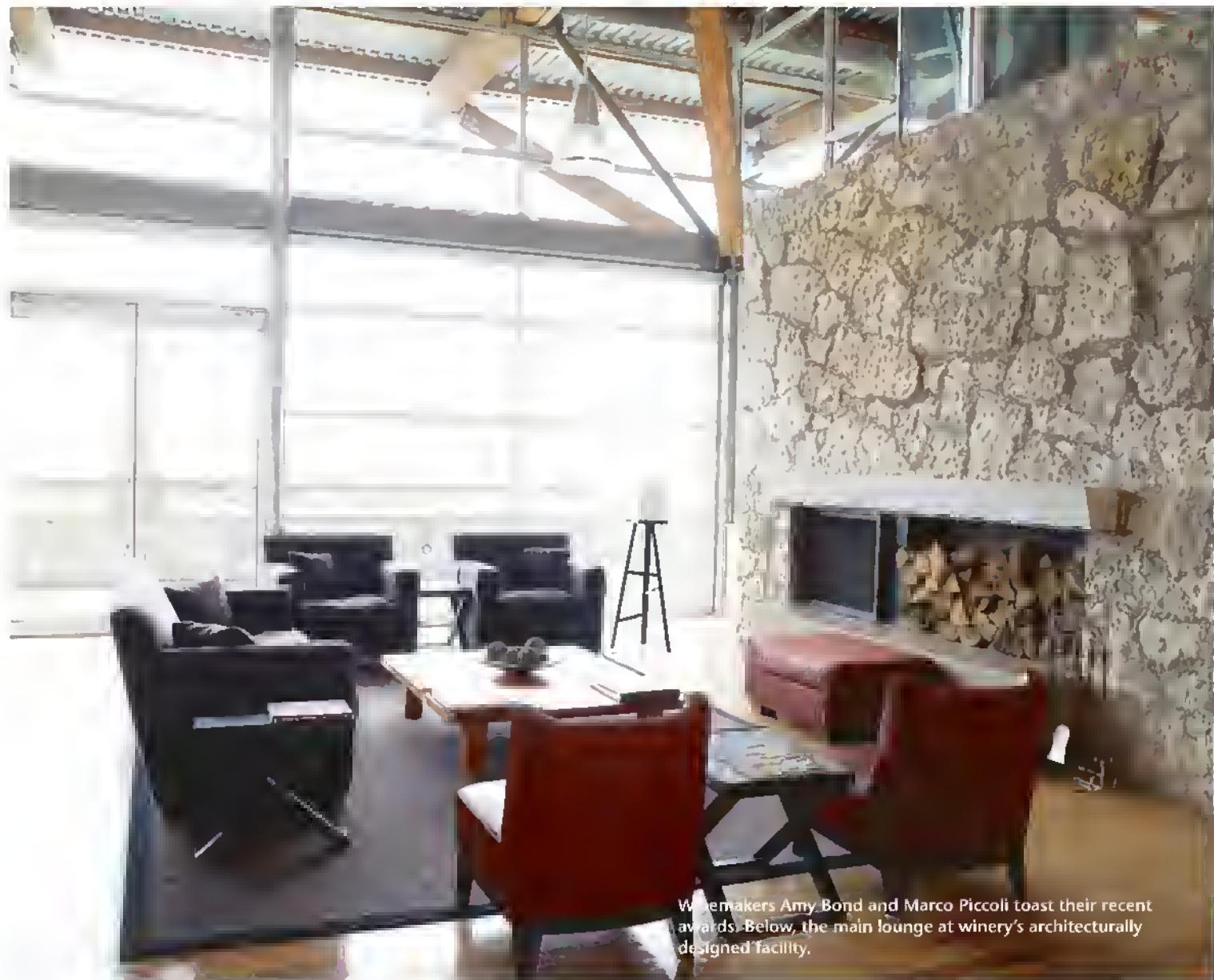
that helped the winery triumph on the international stage are already chilling in private cellars around the world, a few select wines are still available at the Niagara winery or through the winery's wine club.

Among them are: Proprietors' Grand Reserve Riesling Icewine 2006, Proprietors' Grand Reserve Meritage 2005 and Proprietors' Grand Reserve Riesling 2006.

Jackson-Triggs welcomes visitors to its winery, where wine lovers can taste the much lauded wines. At this striking architecturally designed facility, visitors are invited to explore

every aspect of in small, expertly guided tours. This experience concludes with a tasting in the boutique or at the Grand Reserve Tasting Bar.

In the Tasting Gallery overlooking the vineyard, visitors can unwind and enjoy sensational food and wine experiences. The winery also plays host to some of Niagara's most unique events, from "Savour the Sights" (an interactive progressive dinner) to live performances featuring talented performers under the stars in the winery's open air amphitheatre. ♦



Winemakers Amy Bond and Marco Piccoli toast their recent awards. Below, the main lounge at winery's architecturally designed facility.

# STORMY WEATHER

The Artist: Sue Miller



*Solace* (Oil on canvas, 36" by 48", \$3,000)

**S**ue Miller's brooding studies of turbulent seas and stormy skies are inspired by the landscapes of Newfoundland, a part of the world she has fallen in love with in recent years. The province's harsh beauty, its chaotic weather as well as its welcoming spirit have become metaphors for Miller's personal view of a seething yet ultimately benevolent universe.

In particular, the horizon, the place where land and sea meet the sky, has emerged as the focal point of her work.

"I have always been inspired by landscape, not only for its obvious beauty, but for the many metaphors found in the joining of land, sky and water," she says.

The Newfoundland paintings evoke an elemental energy that is unsettling, even disturbing, and yet is charged with

hope and beauty. Always, beyond the storm, there is light and the promise of peace.

"My creative process is inseparable from my life. It can be quite chaotic at times ... but it is from that chaos that the creative spirit is nurtured."

— Cecily Ross

*Sue Miller lives and works in Creemore, Ont. Her work is on view at The Mad and Noisy Gallery, Creemore, Ont., The Upstairs Gallery, 87B Huronontario St., Collingwood, Ont., and The Leyton Gallery, St. John's, Newfoundland. Prices range from \$150 for a 6" by 6" canvas to \$4,000 for 4' by 6' canvas. [www.sueamiller.com](http://www.sueamiller.com)* ♦

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When I pulled out of the Mississauga car dealership on a grey day this winter, it seemed like a perfect afternoon to test drive the new 2009 Range Rover Sport. The sky was clear, the streets a little wet and salty, but hey it was January after all.

So, with the family onboard, it was time to head north and really put this super-charged baby through its paces. As we headed up Airport Road on my way to Wasaga Beach, the weather started to close in, and by the time we pulled onto the back roads of cottage country it was snowing quite hard.

But the Range Rover proved to be made for winter driving. It was fantastic with the adjustable traction and different four-wheel drive modes that could handle ice or deep snow with the turn of a knob.

And the navigational system meant that we were never going to get lost no matter how bad the whiteouts.

My six- and nine-year-old daughters loved the sound system. I put AC/DC's *Highway to Hell* in the CD player and cranked it up, and there we were bucking snow drifts and singing our hearts out.

In the end it wasn't really a highway to hell, it was more like a touch of heaven. This Ranger Rover Sport looks good covered in snow and salt and cleans up real well to take the Theatre. ♦

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RESORT

# The Islands *that time forgot*

Diving, fine dining and drinks on the veranda, luxury meets adventure in Cayman  
by Kelly Gray



Dinner al fresco at Hemingways By The Sea restaurant on Grand Cayman overlooking the spectacular Seven Mile Beach where the sunsets rival the cuisine.





Only those who have walked along her beaches can understand the rhythm of the Cayman Islands. Nowhere else will you find such sunsets. Imagine cocktails on an oceanfront veranda before sitting down to a meal where only the view rivals the cuisine. Imagine days spent scuba diving at some of the world's best diving sites, where the ocean floor and island walls form a kaleidoscope of corals, sponges, shallow reefs and schooling fish.

Stingray City, widely regarded as "the world's best 12 foot dive", is a rare opportunity to touch and interact with more than two-dozen Atlantic Southern Stingrays in their natural habitat. Non-divers can take in attractions that include the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park and Boatswain's Beach, the new home of the Cayman Turtle Farm, but everyone will want to take in the Cayman Islands' official pastime: relaxing. And after dark,

there is plenty of live entertainment, nightclub and theatre.

Mysterious, picturesque, luxurious, the Cayman Islands were first sighted by European explorers in 1503. Once known as "the islands that time forgot," the West Indian destination, which consists of Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, has now become a world leader in tourism and financial services, the islands' two main industries. George Town on Grand Cayman is the capital and

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Greg Norman designed the Blue Tip golf course at Grand Cayman's luxurious Ritz-Carlton resort.

English is the prevailing language.

The Cayman Islands offer some of the world most luxurious accommodations. Along the sandy reaches of Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman visitors can choose from such luxurious accommodation as Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort, The Reef Resort, Grand Cayman Beach Suites and the tropical Westin Casuarina Resort. At Compass Point Resort, an Ocean Frontiers Dive Resort, serious divers can stay in one of the resort's

18 condominium units. For the ultimate in luxury, Cayman lovers can purchase one of the Ritz-Carlton Deck Houses: five-bedroom, five-bath gated single family homes each located on a private island with full access to the amenities of the fabulous Ritz-Carlton (private butler service, luxury boat and private dock). These gorgeous Deck Houses, crafted from natural wood, native stone and shells, are designed by critically-acclaimed Pamela Hughes of Hughes Design Associates

and Los Angeles based lighting designer Paul Ferrante.

Still largely undiscovered by budget developments, Cayman remains the place to experience unspoiled luxury among lush natural surroundings and striking, pastel hued architecture. Though the islands are the quintessential playground for the rich and famous, they also qualify as a little bit of paradise for the discerning traveller yearning to get away from it all. ♦



Above: Ocean breezes waft over a table for four at Hemingway's on Grand Cayman.  
Below: The Club condominiums on Little Cayman.



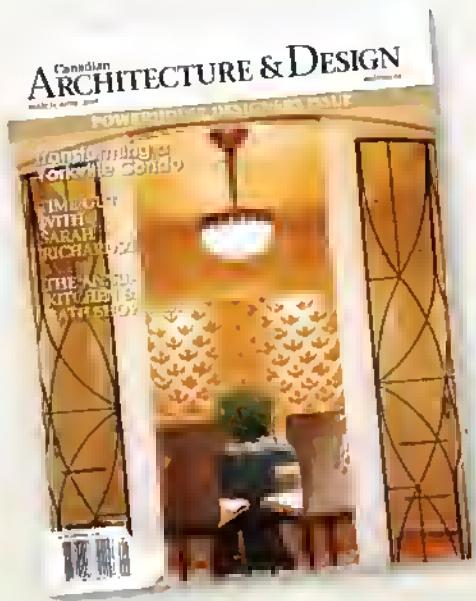
RESORT



The palm-fringed swimming pool at Grand Cayman Beach Suites opens onto soft, white-sand beaches.



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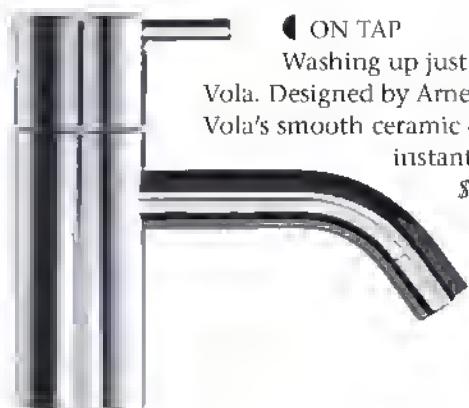
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# BATH



## ON TAP

Washing up just got a whole lot simpler with this single-lever fixed spout from Vola. Designed by Arne Jacobsen in solid brass, stainless steel or polished chrome, the Vola's smooth ceramic disc technology delivers instantly with just flick of your fingertips.

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## VANITY FAIR

Stark white on jet black makes a striking combination in the Rhythm vanity and basin combo with single soft-close drawer and aluminum handle. The vanity is also available in light oak, grey oak, white or walnut. Basin (\$635) and vanity (\$960) sold separately.

[www.gingersbath.com](http://www.gingersbath.com)



## SAVE WATER

Not only are its sleek surfaces easy to clean, the Kohler Power Lite toilet's dual flush technology allows you to choose between 1.6- and .8-gallon flush options.

And it comes in 18 trend-setting colors

**\$3,980** [www.ca.kohler.com](http://www.ca.kohler.com)



## SINK LIKE A STONE

The elegant curves of Po are reminiscent of the smooth black and white stones used in the ancient Japanese board game of Go and bring the perfect balance of simplicity and sophistication to your. Shown here with decorative cover.

[www.totonsa.com](http://www.totonsa.com)

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[arcticspasonline.com](http://arcticspasonline.com)

## KITCHEN GIZMOS



### DRINK TO ME

Here is a stylish alternative to those utilitarian water filtration systems we're used to. Shaped like a life-giving vessel, the Aquaovo Ovopur sits on your kitchen counter and, like a sparkling mountain spring, provides pure filtered water for the whole family. The innovative offline gravitational system is an ecologically friendly solution to water quality in urban areas. *Prices start at \$689. Visit [www.aquaovo.com](http://www.aquaovo.com) for more information.*



### BEAUTY THAT'S COUNTER DEEP

At last a French-door refrigerator that doesn't stick out into the room and yet has ample interior space to cater to the biggest family on the block. No more science projects lost in the back of this baby. The newest thing in refrigerators from KitchenAid is conveniently counter-deep and a mind-blowing 72 inches wide. It also features a bottom freezer with a narrow door swing that won't get in the way of a team of cooks. And its wide refrigerator shelves have no interior divisions, allowing greater space for wider items, such as cookie sheets, baking pans and serving trays. *Prices range from \$2,649 to \$2,949 at [www.kitchenaid.com](http://www.kitchenaid.com)*

### SOME LIKE IT HOT

Whether you're a tea granny or a java joe, this ingenious one-touch hot beverage system from Tassimo provides instant comfort in just 60 seconds. It's a whole new way to prepare your favorite hot drink – coffee, cappuccino, crema or tea

*Just \$189.99 at Sears or visit [www.tassimo.com](http://www.tassimo.com)*



### TOP DRAWER

Free up counter space with the new Sharp Insight Pro Microwave Drawer. It's the first microwave that fits under your kitchen counter where it's immediately accessible and much easier to reach than overhead models.

The drawer is also perfect for kitchen islands, wet bars and open-plan kitchens. The sleek stainless-steel finish and angled touch controls make it the ultimate in microwave design. It's about time.

*\$1,075 at [www.sharp.ca](http://www.sharp.ca)*

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# HOUSE TREASURES



## ◀ COCOA PUFFER

Miele's gorgeous washer/dryer combo is already the hottest thing in laundry room design, and now it's available in delicious, mouth-watering chocolate brown. But color isn't everything; this duo performs as beautifully as it looks. Special sensors automatically determine the size of each load and adjust water levels. The large door, angled drum and LED lighting make loading and unloading a snap. Doing the laundry has never looked this good.

*Priced from \$3,495 to \$3,995 a pair. [www.miele.ca](http://www.miele.ca)*

## PRETTY IN PINK ▶

What? A video camera that's small enough to fit in your pocket. Kodak's Zi6 pocket video will let you capture unforgettable moments on film, and mom and dad (the dog? your best girlfriends?)

will never know you're making a movie.

Then pop out the USB key and upload your video straight to YouTube using built-in software. The Zi6's SD/SDHC card holds up to 32 GB. It's also available in red and silver.

*\$179.95 at Staples and Best Buy.  
[www.sharp.ca](http://www.sharp.ca)*



## OVER THE CARPET ▶

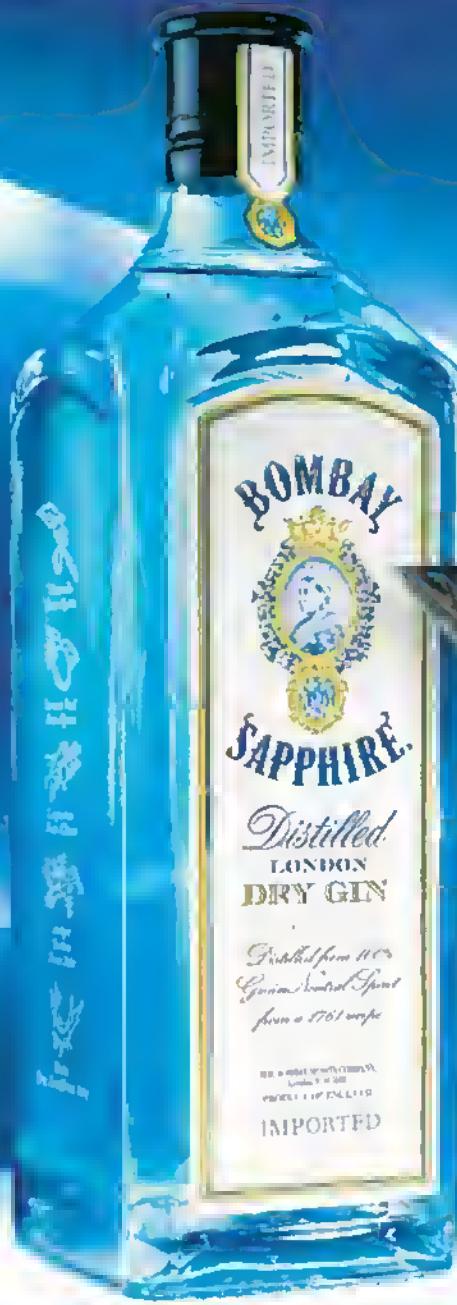
What a ball vacuuming will be with the new Dyson DC25 Ball upright vacuum cleaner. Instead of wheels the DC25 features a large roller ball that allows you to whirl around the living room with the effortlessness of a walk in space. No more pushing and pulling. The DC25 Ball is also certified asthma and allergy friendly, which means it has been scientifically proven to remove

more allergens than conventional vacs. And it comes in this wicked shade of purple. Housework

will never be the same.

*\$699.99 at [www.dysoncanada.ca](http://www.dysoncanada.ca)*





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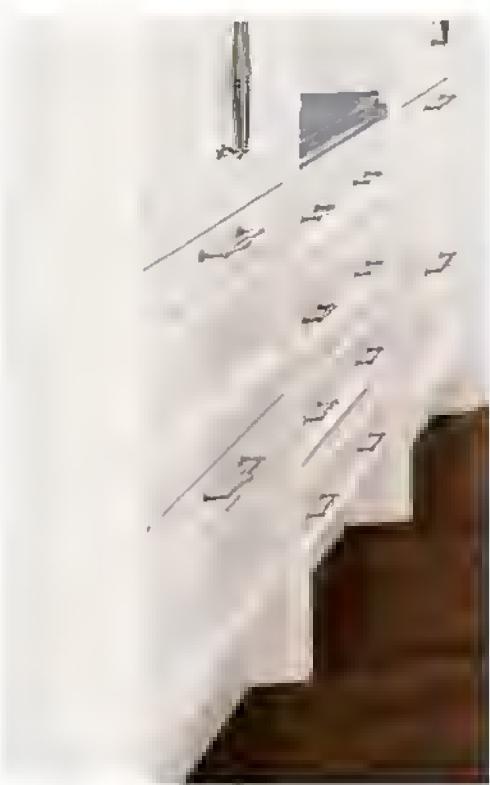
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## EUROPEAN GRANDEUR

WORTHY OF ANY CASTLE IN SPAIN, THE FINISHES IN THIS kitchen by Downsview Kitchens contribute to its grand European aura even as they provide a practical working environment for the serious cook. Anchored by an imposing Scagliola stone mantelpiece, the room also features American black walnut floors, honed Everglades granite counters and cabinetry in a creamy glazed Latte finish.

[www.downsviewkitchens.com](http://www.downsviewkitchens.com)





## CLEAN CLASSICAL

The piece de resistance in this BeauxArts kitchen by SieMatic is the vertical "stacked" pantry in dark maple at left with its slender glass cabinet doors and row of small drawers, six of which are really one large drawer. The rustic-looking stove features a contemporary stainless-steel hood. Meanwhile soft, grey base cabinets express classical design in a whole new way.

[www.binns.net](http://www.binns.net)

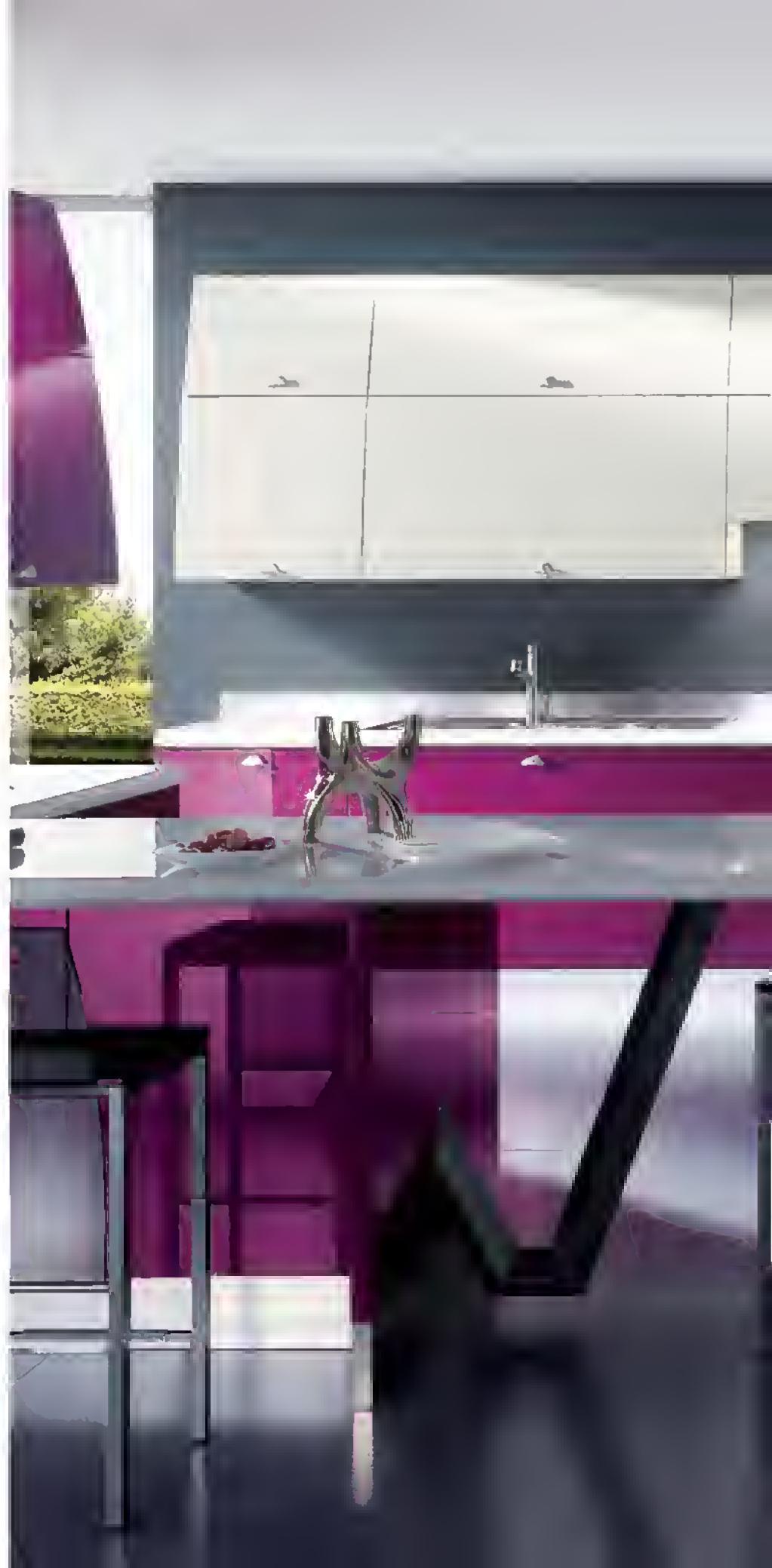




## ITALIAN INNOVATION

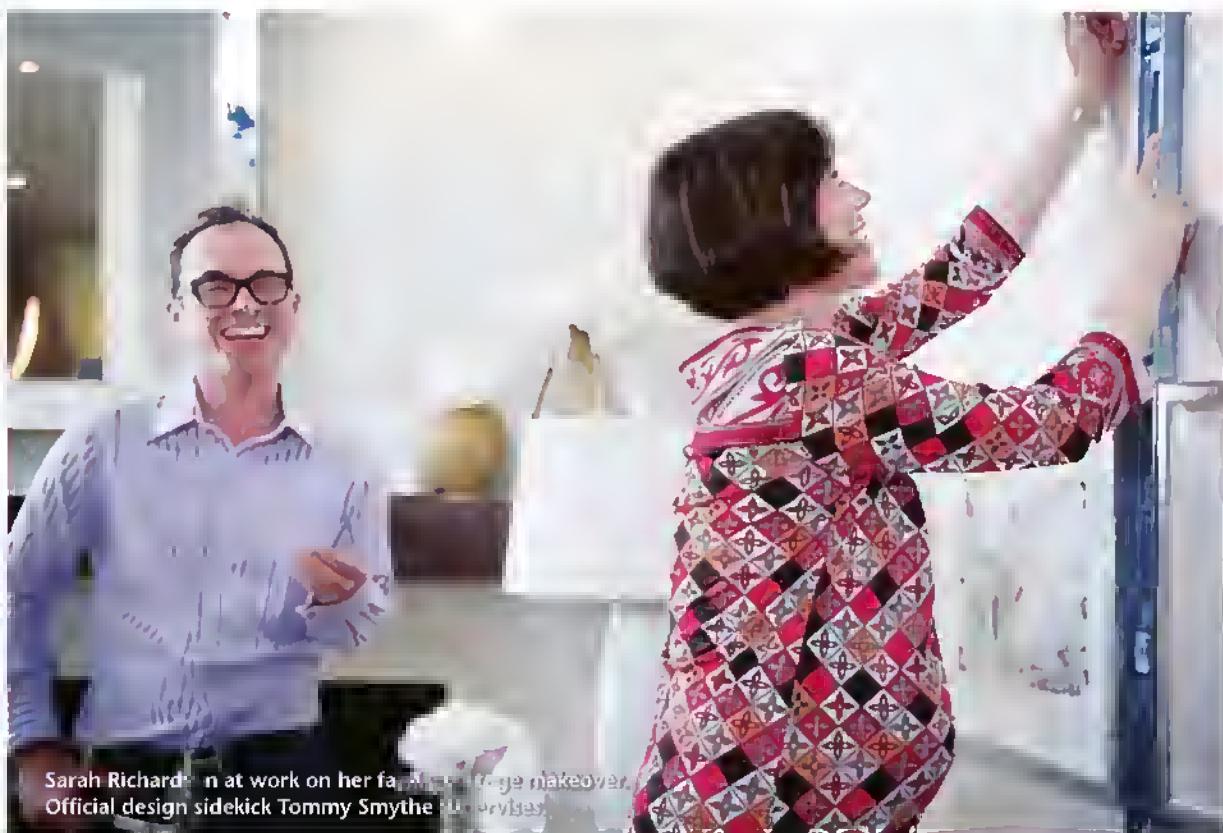
**W**ow! would be an understated reaction to the Flux metallic purple kitchen from Scavolini. The unusual color is both playful and sophisticated. And the contemporary, even space-age, feel is further enhanced by the bright lacquered finish on the counters, the brushed metal cupboard and drawer handles and the stunning breakfast bar with its solid metal support.

[www.scavolini.com](http://www.scavolini.com)





# TIME OUT with Sarah Richardson



Sarah Richardson at work on her family cottage makeover. Official design sidekick Tommy Smythe supervises.

## TELEVISION'S FAVORITE DESIGNER IS BUSY THESE DAYS WITH A NEW BABY AND A NEW SHOW

Canada's design maven is at it again; this spring another of Sarah Richardson's makeover projects hits the small screen. *Sarah's Cottage*, a six-part HGTV series that tackles the renovation of her favorite home away from home, an island cottage that's a 20-kilometer boat ride from the mainland.

Stay tuned as the host of such HGTV hits as *design inc.*, *Room Service* and *Sarah's House*, and her team brave icy waters, black flies, shipping issues and the laid-back work ethic of cottage country to turn a little piece of paradise into an even better piece of paradise.

*Canadian Architecture & Design Magazine* talked to Sarah about a few of her favorite things, her design vision and her plans for the future.

**Why did you choose interior design as a career?**  
I didn't choose this profession...I thank fate every day that this career chose me.

**How would you describe your design vision?**  
Every home, every room, and every client deserve a fresh concept. My job is to be inspired by the challenge and create solutions which are innovative, original and personal.

**What is your favorite décor item?**  
A Molly Lamb Bobak painting I bought at a Sotheby's auction during a very tough business year to remind myself of what's important. It's a wonderful bright beach scene and it cheers me every time I look at it.

**What is your favorite gadget?**  
My husband's iPod. It always plays just what I need to hear!

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**What is your most exciting new purchase?**

A pair of sublime vintage pink and gold Murano glass lamps.

**If you could travel through time, what era would you most like to visit?**  
I'd love to see the design and manufacturing of the Art Deco and Art Moderne period. Some wonderful influences still carry through in many of today's designs.

**How do you dress for success?**

Jeans and a jacket for job site visits, shooting and sourcing days, and dresses for evening. Heels, jewelry and a polished attitude for both. Diane von Furstenburg, Tory Burch, Smythe and Nanette Lepore have a youthful, yet professional and fun approach which suits me perfectly.

**What are you reading right now?**

Lots of Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle



The remote island cottage that is the subject of HGTB's upcoming program, *Sarah's Cottage*.

**What is your ideal design project?**

I'd love to have free reign on a hotel so I could create rooms that feel welcoming and exciting instead of cookie-cutter.

**What is your dream vacation?**

Playing on the beach and in the pool with my kids and husband, afternoon naps, sunsets, fresh cuisine, and turndown service.

**How do you stay fit and relaxed?**

I chase 2 kids, rarely sit still, and enjoy fine wine. Summer water sports and winter snow sports are a treat when time permits these days.

**How do you manage to keep so many balls in the air?**

I'm a born multi-tasker and am honing my skills as a delegator. I don't second-guess my decisions and treat every day as

a learning adventure. I've got a lot on my plate so the best approach for me is to balance both speed and efficiency, and trust my gut - so far it hasn't steered me wrong.

**What's the next project for your HGTV hit, *Sarah's House*?**

I'm embarking on the renovation and expansion of an 1880's brick farmhouse near Creemore for season 3 of *Sarah's House*.

**When does your new show *Sarah's Cottage* air? What's it about?**

It debuts Tuesday, March 31 at 9 p.m. on HGTV. It's a six-part mini-series that follows the transformation of our small, remote island cottage into a family retreat. We run the island entirely off the grid on solar power. Of course, when you are 17 miles from the mainland on an island only accessible by plane or boat, lots can and will go wrong. ♦

# POWERHOUSE Designers

Named for an Irish expression meaning "the job's done," Vancouver's Bob's Your Uncle Design prides itself on its many condo, apartment and townhouse -decorating projects. In this issue, however, founding partners, Ada Bonini and Cheryl Broadhead, tackle their first-ever house renovation, giving a Burnaby, B.C., home, the distinctive aura of a boutique hotel

*Unit 307, 375 West 5th Ave., Vancouver.  
604-801-5330. [www.byuodesign.com](http://www.byuodesign.com)*



**Ada Bonini and Cheryl Broadhead**  
**Bob's Your Uncle Design**



**Fenwick Bonnell and David Powell**  
**Powell & Bonnell**

Combine David Powell's commitment to the modernist esthetic with Fenwick Bonnell's eye for off-beat stylish solutions and you have a design marriage made in heaven. In this issue, the pair transforms a woodsy Muskoka cottage into an urbane home-away-from-home for a family that likes to play but likes to do it in style.

*236 Dayenport Rd., Toronto, 416-964-6210.  
[www.powellandbonnell.com](http://www.powellandbonnell.com)*

Restraint and elegance are the central principals evoked in Robert Ledingham's painstaking and detailed approach to residential interiors. Everything in the gorgeous home on Vancouver's north shore featured in these pages, from the indoor swimming pool to the state-of-the-art media room is the result of Ledingham's meticulous attention to detail.

*125 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, 604-874-4900.  
[www.ledingham.com](http://www.ledingham.com)*



**Robert Ledingham**  
**Ledingham Design Consultants**

Lori Morris loves beautiful things whether they come together in a contemporary kitchen or a colonial living room. But her special affinity for the grace and luxury of French Country styling is especially evident in the project detailed in this issue. Under her direction a spacious Toronto condominium acquires the look and feel of a manor house in central Paris.

*189 DuPont St., Toronto. 416-972-1515.*



**Lori Morris**  
**Lori Morris Design**



**Mitchell Freedland**  
**Mitchell Freedland Design**

Staying small allows Vancouver designer Mitchell Freedland to remain true to his unique vision. That includes clean and classic interiors that are both sustainable and timeless in their appeal. The Vancouver condo in this issue, with its breathtaking views and stunning relationship with sea and sky is proof of his artistry.

*6 East rd Ave., Vancouver. 604-733-3600.  
[www.mitchell-freedland-design.ca](http://www.mitchell-freedland-design.ca)*

An architect as well as an interior designer, Taylor Hannah's reverence for classical buildings is evident in all her work. But that love is combined with a contemporary respect for the crisp beauty of modern materials.

Every aspect of the Toronto home included in these pages is a reflection of her firm commitment to beauty that will endure for a lifetime.

*515 Davenport Rd., Toronto. 416-920-7899.  
[www.taylorhannaharchitect.com](http://www.taylorhannaharchitect.com)*



**Dee Dee Taylor Hannah**  
**Taylor Hannah Architect**

# Balancing ACT

A Burnaby reno designed by BYU's Ada Bonini blends formality with family fun

Text by  
Sheree-Lee Olson  
Photography by  
Ed White  
Interior Design by  
Bob's Your Uncle

**W**hen they drew up their wish list for the reno of this three-level home in Burnaby's chic Capitol Hill area, the owners wanted the impossible: a boutique-hotel-style space that is also kid-friendly.

But Ada Bonini of Vancouver's BYU Design ([byudesign.com](http://byudesign.com)) pulled it off. Using glamorous but tough materials such as leather, white oak and stone, they created an elegant, multipurpose environment that is equally welcoming to toddlers, dogs, dinner guests – or a bunch of guys watching hockey in the family room.

This is the first house project for the firm, which Bonini launched together with partner Cheryl Broadhead in 2003, though the pair have decorated several condominium residences. The name, BYU Design, actually started out as "Bob's Your Uncle Design." Bonini's Scottish husband came up with it and it stuck. "We wanted a name that was fun," Bonini says. "Because fun is important to us. It's about a work-life balance."

Balance is also a major priority of the Burnaby clients. As high-powered professionals with two preschoolers, this is a couple who needed a place to kick back and relax. Hence the family room with the built-in flat screen TV, leather Natuzzi sofa, ecru leather Barcelona chairs and faux leather walls. ("They're very convincing," says Bonini.)

The family also wanted a showpiece home that fits their professional





The staircase in the high-ceilinged foyer is made of rich American walnut and framed with sheets of tempered glass. Beyond, linen-look wallpaper and dark oak paneling give the dining room an air of intimacy.

The living room's soothing palette of beige, taupe and sandy hues is a study in harmony. A creamy marble coffee table complements the sleek limestone fireplace.

profile – he is president of marketing for a large Vancouver development company; she's vice-president of a national brokerage company focusing on commercial properties.

First impressions matter to them, and indeed, the impressive two-storey entrance foyer sets the tone for the entire ground level, with creamy Bella limestone flooring and a staircase in warm American walnut walled by sheets of thick tempered glass. A stunning blown-glass chandelier, chosen by the couple, hangs from an oak barrel-vaulted ceiling, completing the sense of occasion.

The foyer looks directly through a wide opening into the elegant dining room, which features dark oak walls alternating with linen-look wallpaper. While the foyer feels airy, the dining room is intimate, a space to linger over home-cooked dinners with friends and family under the cream reverse coffered ceiling and an ultra-cool sparkly horizontal light fixture hanging low over the custom dark wood table.

The living room is also open to the entrance hall, situated on the other side of the staircase. To create flow and airiness, elements are repeated here: the same limestone flooring continues throughout the main level of the home, and a similar coffered ceiling enhances the geometry of the space.

The living room packs a glamorous punch: mirrored cabinets and a round mirror set off the sleek limestone of the mantelpiece, the creamy marble of the big square coffee table, and warm chenille upholstery of the tailored sofa and club chairs.

With soft pot lighting throughout the room casting a warm glow, the beiges, taupes and sandy hues blend in a harmonious palette that is both classical and feels inspired by nature.





"I was trying to convey subtle texture and warmth in a neutral tone," Bonini says.

In the powder room, the same creamy Bella limestone as the floor continues up the wall to enhance the boutique-hotel feel. The ledge is white oak, as is the vanity, which is topped with a round glass vessel sink.

Working in the warm oak-lined kitchen, meanwhile, is a little like being inside a wooden bento box. The custom cabinetry runs floor to ceiling, with niches above the cupboards to display collected treasures.

The large central island was designed to enhance clan gatherings, which often converge on the kitchen. "She's of Italian descent and cooking is quite social for her family," Bonini says. With a white composite stone countertop, two sinks, seating for four, and a built-in wine fridge and extra dishwasher, the island is a highly efficient centre of operations for home entertaining, which the couple loves to do.

Once the party's over, of course, it's important to get some shut-eye. And the ultimate test of the house's boutique hotel feel is the couple's bedroom. Bonini designed a white oak floating platform bed to maximize floor and circulation space. Made up in crisp Restoration Hardware bedding, it is utterly inviting. The nightstands float as well, allowing the room to breathe, and have wall-mounted sconces to maximize bedside table space.

But the most innovative element is the custom wall paneling in faux mohair. It creates a cozy, cosseted space, insulated from the noises of the household, and one hopes, the cares of the world. At night, from their hilltop perch, they can look out from their bedroom balcony at the lights of Vancouver below them.

"The view is stunning up there," Bonini says. "It sparkles at night and in the day they can see the mountains and the ocean."

Talk about having it all.♦

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**Bob's Your Uncle Design**  
604.801.5330  
[byudesign.com](http://byudesign.com)



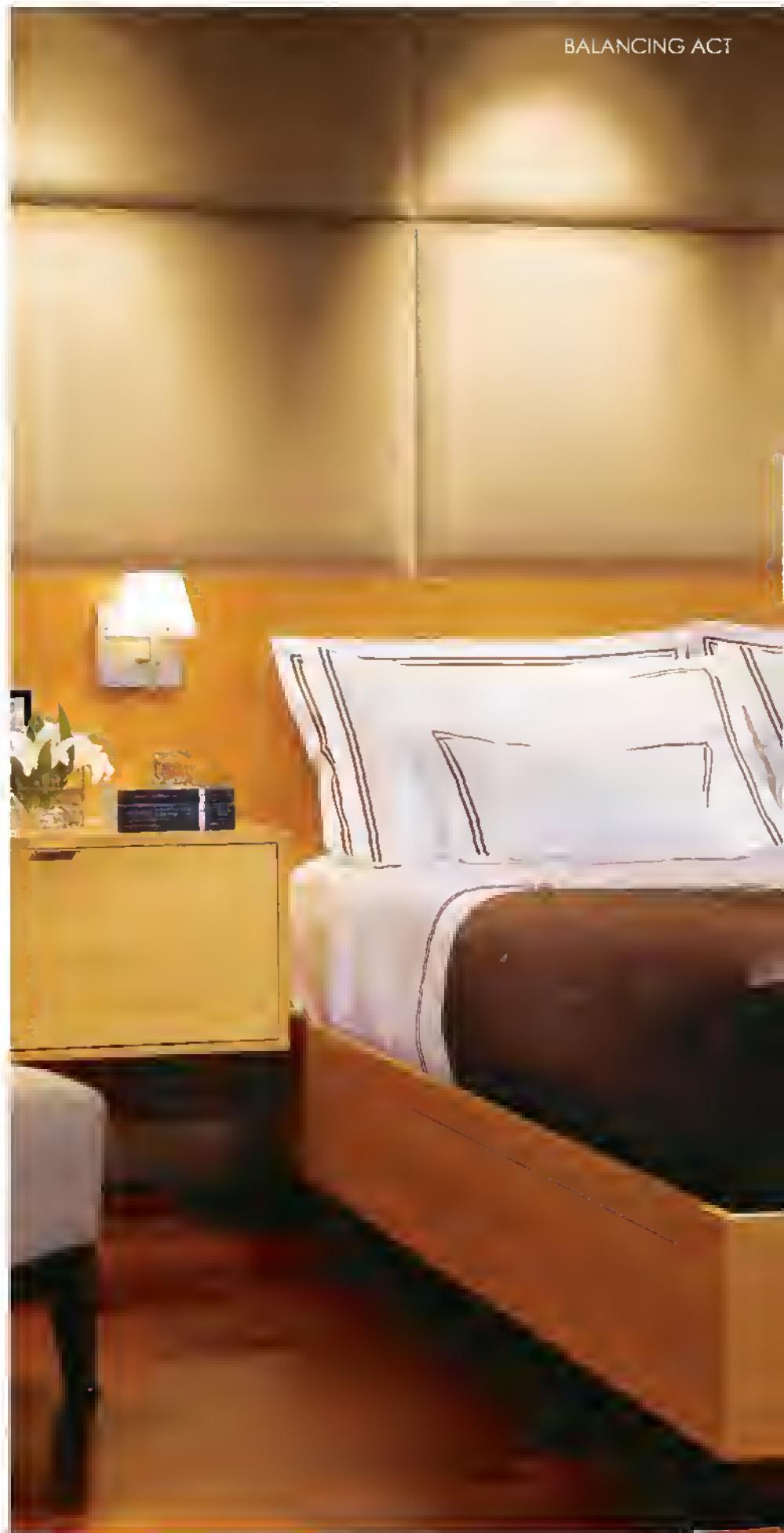
A round glass vessel sink and white oak cabinetry give the powder room a boutique-hotel feel. The walls are the same Bella limestone as the floor.



Entertaining is a breeze in the bright contemporary kitchen with its huge white composite-stone island and minimalist white-oak floor-to-ceiling cabinetry.



Faux leather walls in the family room add depth and echo the cool comfort of the ecru Barcelona chairs and leather Nuzzo sofa. At right, the platform bed floats against a custom wall of faux mohair.



POWERHOUSE  
Designers

# Practical Elegance

A TORONTO COURTYARD HOUSE BY  
DEE DEE TAYLOR HANNAH EMBODIES  
THE BEST OF OLD AND NEW DESIGN

Text by Cecily Ross

Photography by

Philip Castleton

Architecture by

Taylor Hannah Architect

**O**n a large corner lot in one of Toronto's fine old neighborhoods sits a grand house that looks for all the world as though it's been there for decades. A graceful circular drive curves around to the imposing stone portico. Pyramidal oak trees stand guard in front of banks of



Traditional design is given a crisp, new look with commercial brick walls, aluminum windows and a zinc roof. The triple-flue chimney adds an air of authority to this already substantial home.



10-foot tall windows. A monolithic limestone chimney rises from the rooftop with Dickensian authority.

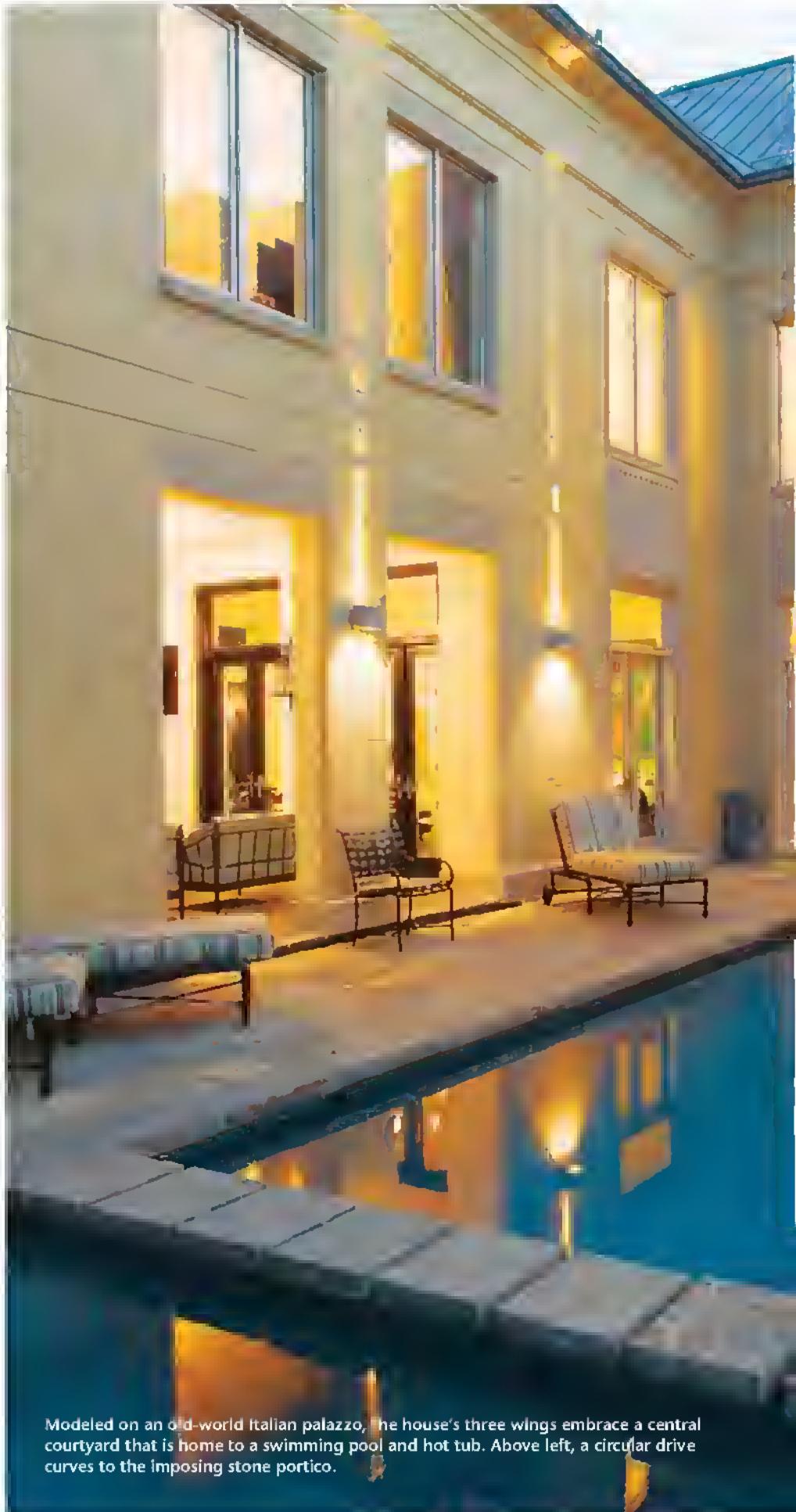
But a closer look reveals that the 7,000 square foot, 4-bedroom mansion is an imposter, designed and built by architect Dee Dee Taylor Hannah ([www.taylorhannaharchitect.com](http://www.taylorhannaharchitect.com)) just four years ago to suit the needs of a bustling family, a family whose lifestyle is firmly rooted in the here and now, but whose sensibility leans toward the elegance of an earlier era. The house, at first, looks very much like a traditional Forest Hill manor, but in fact it is much cleaner, crisper and way more contemporary.

"I don't do pseudo or cookie-cutter recreations of historical styles," says Taylor Hannah of her architectural work. "I look to history and then interpret it in a modern way." And with this house, thanks to the use of such up-to-date materials as the zinc roof, aluminum windows and commercial brick facing, she has succeeded.

"You can't really tell," she says, "whether it was built last year or 35 years ago."

Still, when pressed, Taylor Hannah admits that the building is a contemporary take on an Italian palazzo, what she calls a "courtyard house." The impressive façade actually forms reverse "U" that wraps around a private outdoor inner sanctum, complete with patio, swimming pool, hot tub and an outdoor living room with a fireplace and upholstered seating.

The long axial pool, perfect for doing early morning laps, is separated from the more languorous hot tub



Modeled on an old-world Italian palazzo, the house's three wings embrace a central courtyard that is home to a swimming pool and hot tub. Above left, a circular drive curves to the imposing stone portico.





by a stepping-stone bridge made of the same Credit Valley limestone as the courtyard floor. Directional lighting with its narrow upward beams and warm downward floods add to the feeling of intimacy. The outdoor room to the left has the effect of blurring the boundary between indoors and out.

As much as possible, Taylor Hannah has aimed for a light, airiness in her building design, something seldom found in the mansions of an earlier era. The tall windows throughout bring in maximum light to the spacious rooms with their 12-foot-high ceilings. "The interior has a gallery-like feel with lots of wall space," says Taylor Hannah, adding that the close relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces was inspired by Californian design.

Taylor Hannah's contribution to the interior is evident in the kitchen and bathroom areas of the courtyard house; the firm was recently asked to add its imprint to what are strategic areas of any home.

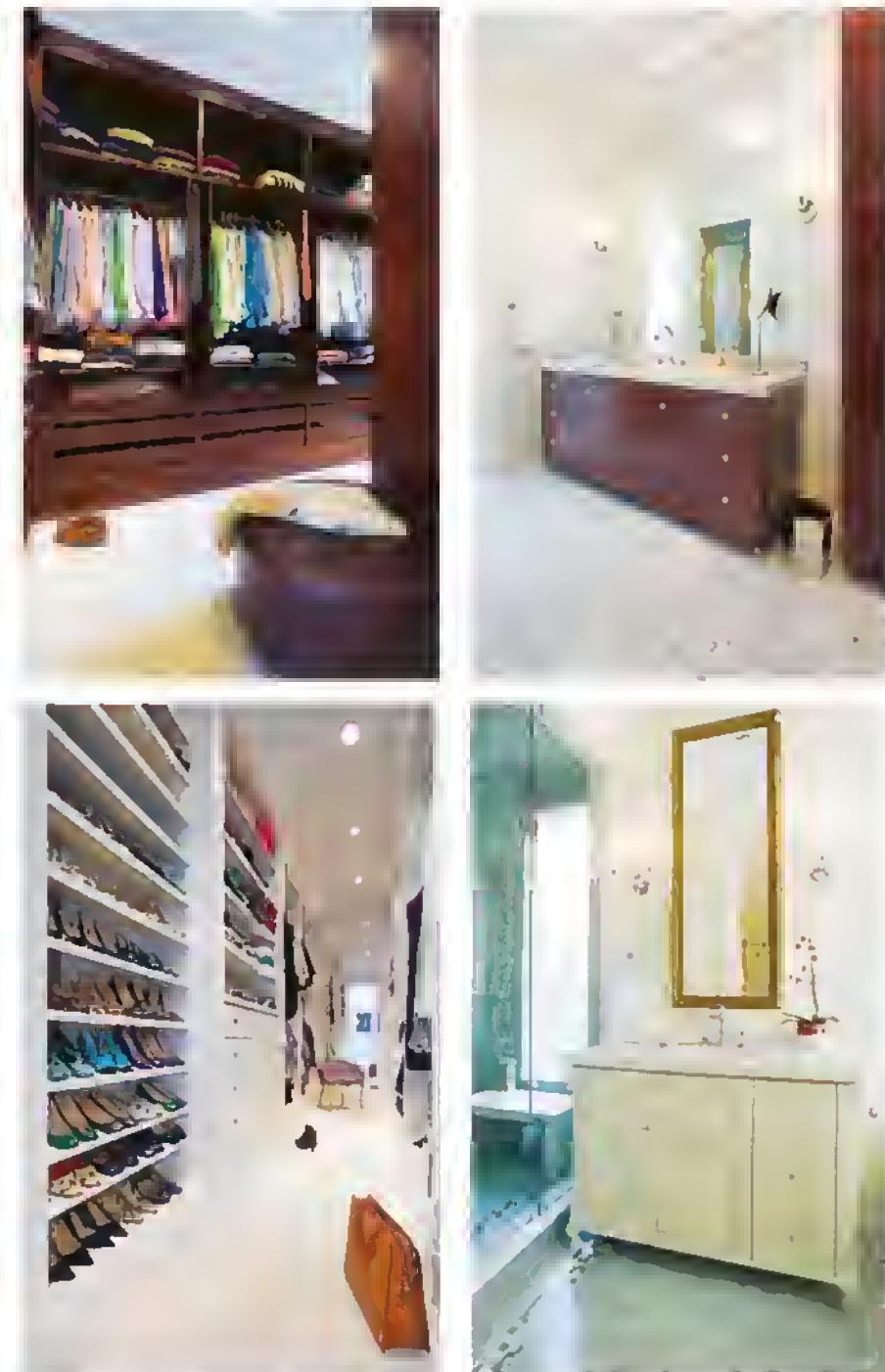
Starting with His and Hers master bathrooms, the architect/designer created rooms that reflect the clients' unique personalities. The feminine is not always associated with contemporary design, but the Hers bathroom, while incorporating such traditional features as a crystal chandelier, shaded wall sconces and silver gilt mirrors, is nevertheless clean and free of unnecessary embellishment. "It's not all carved and crazy like a lot of girlish



**Bellini kitchen cabinets in warm wood tones** more blend with the mosaic-tile backsplash. Polished black granite counters, stainless-steel appliances and grey stone floors give the kitchen a contemporary edge.



RATIONAL



rooms," says Taylor Hannah.

Instead, the feminine is expressed in the gentle curve of the vanity niche, the womb-like roundness of the under-mounted tub and the graceful rolled back of the upholstered stool. The result is understated yet elegant. Warm blue accents, Taylor Hannah's favorite color, are fresh and clean, but never cold. Blue-white stone on the tub surround and bright marble floors give the bathroom a soft floating aura.

"I like the contrasting curviness of the room," says Taylor Hannah, "in what is essentially a square, linear house."

Compare that to the His bathroom, a study in spare masculinity with its frameless mirror and rectangular vanity in polished mahogany, a combination that is saved from starkness by the back-painted glass walls. The technique that adds depth and an almost luminescent sheen to the room.

Taylor Hannah's touch also extends to the couples' generous walk-in closets: His in dark wood with a comfy leather ottoman, Hers painted white with ample storage for an impressive shoe collection. Both are warmed underfoot by soft and practical cream-colored broadloom.

That same practicality extends to the decidedly contemporary kitchen. The Bellini cabinets in buttery sycamore are framed in stainless steel. Polished black granite countertops and floors of grey stone laid on staggered joints gleam under modernistic version of a chandelier. The blonde, black and grey tones are pulled together into a harmonious whole by the multi-colored mosaic tiled backsplash. But the overall modern effect is softened by the contrasting feature of traditional plaster cornices at the ceiling.

"What I like," says Taylor Hannah, "is this juxtaposition of old and new. I believe in function, but I also believe in beauty. If I can make them work together, then I've succeeded."♦

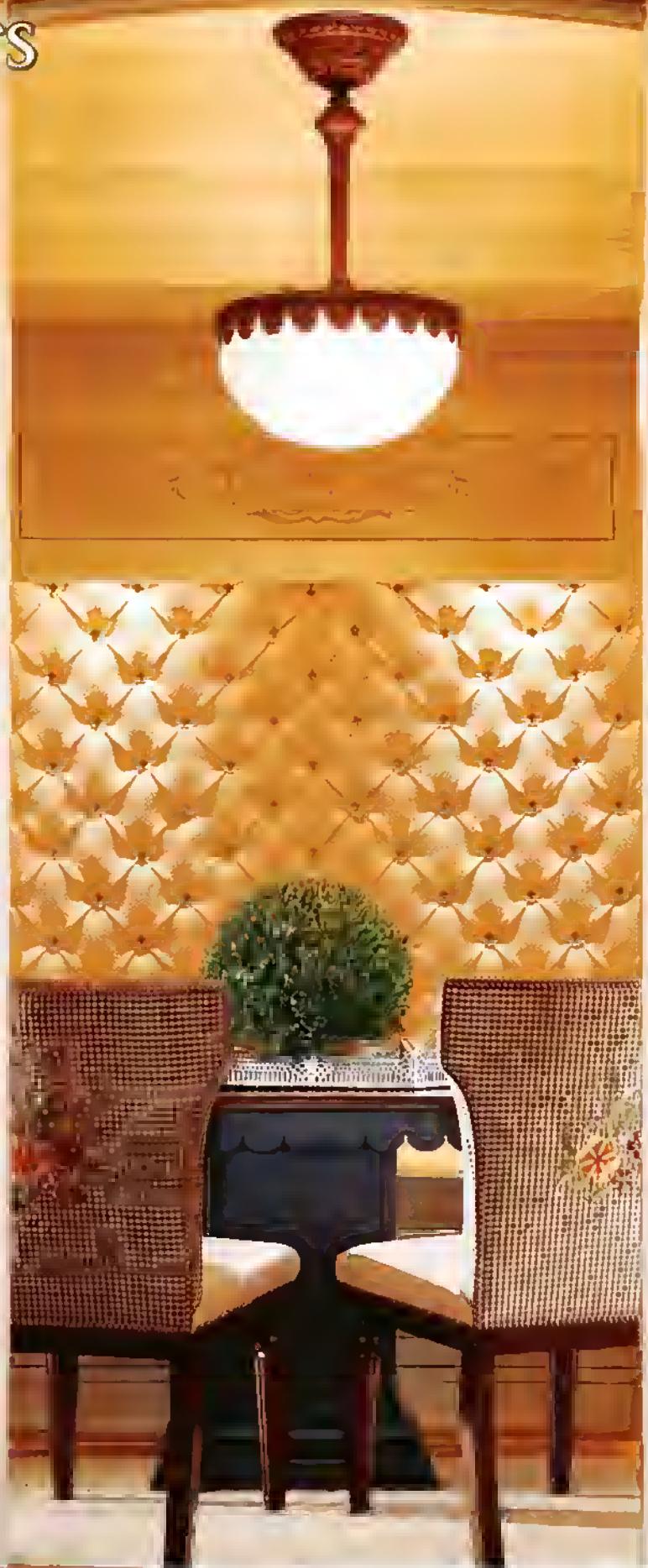
**His** (top left) and **Hers** (bottom left) dressing rooms cater to the owners' sartorial needs. Above right, His bathroom is the epitome of masculinity. Below right, a girls' bath sparkles with feminine charm.

**Taylor Hannah Architect Inc.**  
416.920.7899  
[taylorhannaharchitect.com](http://taylorhannaharchitect.com)



A curved vanity and inviting oval bathtub with soft, blue inset panels make this graceful bathroom the private domain of the lady of the house.

# POWERHOUSE Designers



"Tufted, backless sofa (far right) highlights the theme of updated Victorian chic." Cozy grouping of textured furnishings in soothing neutral colors.

# LET THE SUN SHINE IN



## SOOTHING COLOURS, WARM TEXTURES AND DESIGNER LORI MORRIS'S LIGHT TOUCH TRANSFORM A TORONTO CONDO

Text by  
Mickey Goodman  
Photography by  
John Trigiani  
Interior Design by  
Lori Morris

UNDER ordinary circumstances, clients rarely leave the design process entirely to the professional. Not so with a Toronto couple who were among designer Lori Morris's (Lori Morris Design Inc.)

first clients and had worked with her on three other homes. "Lori knows exactly what we like better than we do," the wife laughs. "We just told her to make it exciting."

That shouldn't have been much of a stretch for a condo located in Toronto's luxurious new Regency Yorkville, an art deco-style building designed by architects Turner, Fleischer with the assistance of interior decorator Mike Niven. The complex offers valet parking, concierge service and even a building butler. But it didn't take Morris long to realize that some changes would be needed to the home the couple calls "their last hurrah."

"I didn't like the way the space was configured and knew they wouldn't either," Morris says. "Because we launched the project before the Regency was completed, we were able to work with the building's contractors to manipulate the rooms for functionality and design."

In the end, Morris was able to give the couple everything on their brief wish list: sunshiny rooms to bring the Toronto skyline indoors, a large dining room to entertain their many friends, a cozy media room, ample closet space and a color palette in warm neutrals punctuated with striking black accents.

The couple had total faith that



*Graceful archways and columns create a sense of intimacy and a feeling of openness at the same time. The dining room's black furnishings echo the wrought-iron chandelier and contrast with the beige and taupe hues in the adjoining rooms.*

Morris would work her magic. "Lori has an amazing capacity to envision the way a space will look at completion before she even begins," the wife says. "She is absolutely brilliant."

Layout was key. Morris, a 21-year veteran of the business, whose mother, Eve, works alongside her, divided the condominium into two distinct spaces with the bedrooms to the left of the entry and the living area to the right. Under her direction, her team began by installing coffered ceilings and classic columns with elaborate millwork throughout. Next came graceful archways, so skillfully executed, they look as if they are part of the original floor plan.

Always mindful that the devil is in the detail, Morris designed stunning glass and iron casement and pocket doors that add privacy and underscore the beauty of the architectural features. Since the existing electrical wiring didn't always coincide with Morris's furniture placement,

lighting became one of her biggest challenges. She solved it with the liberal use of crystal wall sconces on the columns.



The guest room/study, the first room visitors see, provides a glimpse of things to come. A massive built-in wall unit to the right of the bed includes a glass-shelved armoire for the couple's books and collectibles, cupboards for storage, shelving and a spacious computer desk that the

wife uses as an office for her philanthropic endeavors and assisting in the family business. Rich taupe wallpaper and cream Roman draperies soften the black furnishings and carpet. An eye-popping black lacquered chest trimmed in black patent leather that opens like a steamer trunk encourages guests to unpack and stay awhile.

In contrast to the deep colors in the guest room/study, airy butternuts and beiges in the master bedroom and ensuite bath reflect the sun, and a spectacular crystal chandelier catches the moonbeams. But the room did present some design challenges – an awkwardly placed support beam, a lack of wall space for the bed and another support beam in the center of the closet. To solve the triad of dilemmas, Morris's team created a padded floor-to-ceiling headboard that serves as a mini-wall for the bed, conceals the support beam and provides additional storage in the side bookcases. "Lori even customized the closet so we have three times as

LET THE SUN SHINE IN



Stunning glass and iron pocket doors open into the living room. The furniture's contrasting textures — chenille, leather, suede and brocade — create a calm and cozy atmosphere.



A massive black leather wall unit allows the room to double as a home office. Taupe floral wallpaper and creamy Roman draperies soften the dark colour scheme and make the room feel both masculine and feminine.



LET THE SUN SHINE IN



Buttery beige bed linens and wallcoverings give the sunny master bedroom an air of endless summer. The padded floor-to-ceiling headboard hides an obtrusive support beam at the same time as it adds drama and extra storage.



much space," says the owner.

The main hub of any home is a living room that is welcoming for guests and residents alike. To cozy up the space, Morris created four conversation groups separated visually by columns and the antique wash Zeigler-style carpets that she terms, "art work for the floor." Her mother, Eve, whose expertise lies in helping Morris select the perfect accessories, furnishings, art work and fabrics, suggested a *mélange* of chenille, suede, leather and brocade. Added drama in the dining room came through Morris's use of dual-textured seating and black furnishings, echoed in the striking chandelier.

In the adjacent galley kitchen, custom cabinetry with deep bronze hardware blends seamlessly into the overall design of the condo and disguises the pantry and freezer drawers. Bar stools allow guests to chat with the hostess during food preparation and still feel part of the party. But the showstopper is clearly the comfortable eat-in area with its backlit bench upholstered in lush tufted chenille.

The real test of any design project lies with the satisfaction of the homeowners and for the couple's fourth home, Morris delivered. "Once Lori began, we didn't see the space again until it was completed," the wife says. "Then, she gave us a marvelous presentation. It was like receiving a birthday present that far exceeded even our highest expectations. This is an exciting home, one that reflects exactly who we are." ♦

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**Lori Morris Design Inc.**

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# POWERHOUSE Designers



peace above it all

VANCOUVER PENTHOUSE BY DESIGNERS JEFFREY AND HILL FREED AND  
EVOKE HARMONY AND CALM AMID SOARING VIEWS OF ENGLISH BAY



Custom-made furnishings cluster around a limestone-clad fireplace giving the glass-walled living room a cozy gull's-eye view of the sunset-streaked sky.



**Text by**

**Rachel Hunter**

**Photography by**

**Ed White Photographics**

**Interior Design by**

**Mitchell Freedland**

In this seaside penthouse mere humans enjoy the same breathtaking scenery as the seagulls. Mountains, ocean and sky fill the senses, invited in by towering walls of glass and an interior palette that mirrors the colours of the sand and surf below.

Perched atop a luxury condominium building in West Vancouver, the two-storey, 4,000-square foot condominium is a private, peaceful retreat ideal for entertaining an intimate gathering of friends or just cocooning, says Mitchell Freedland, of Vancouver's Mitchell Freedland Design. Overlooking stunning English

Bay, the home revels in a southwestern exposure that is maximized wherever possible by floor-to-ceiling windows.

Freedland, who has garnered awards for his work across North America, was the lead designer on the building during its 2007 construction.

"We were lucky to be in on the project from the beginning, and so were able to work with the builder on several key components for the space," he says. The main floor's open plan allows easy entertaining, with the living room, dining room and kitchen all flowing naturally from one end of the home to another.

Surrounded by glass on three sides, the living room, like most of the residence, is designed to capture the views. It includes custom-made furnishings created by Freedland's firm. "Furniture design is part of what we love to do," Freedland notes, adding that it enables him to truly partner a home's structural personality with its furnishings. The sofa and chairs clustered around the fireplace, even the lighting, were all

created exclusively for the home. The Donghia chaise by the limestone-clad fireplace is the only exception.

Another example of the firm's handiwork is the hall table stationed in the home's entryway. An adaptation of a 1938 design by Austrian furniture maker Paul T. Frankl, it recalls Art Deco's modernist aspirations using a 21st century favourite, zebra wood. The piece is a functional blend of old and new modernity finished with touches of ivory lacquer and brass inlays.

The open dining room and kitchen can be as formal or as casual as an evening's activities might dictate. The spacious kitchen, with its island seating and Quartzite countertop, would shine as headquarters for a formal, catered dinner party, or a simple get-together over homemade pizza prepared in one of two Miele wall ovens (the third is a steam oven). A steaming cappuccino from the built-in espresso maker would accompany dessert. Adjacent to the kitchen, a climate-controlled, professionally-installed wine room



Above left, a sleek Quartzite kitchen island invites guests to help out. The cabinets, eco-friendly satinwood from South America, surround state-of-the-art Miele appliances. Plush dining room chairs (this page) are a happy contrast to the gleaming white oak floors.

PEACE ABOVE IT ALL



Left, butterscotch swirls in the master bathroom's onyx vanity suggest movement amidst spa-like stillness. Above right, the sophisticated Duravit bathtub is bathed in diffused light from privacy-glass walls.



holds up to 700 bottles.

Freedland's intention was to create a space that was peaceful and harmonious, "easy on the eye, without jarring changes," he says. He began by using the same white oak flooring throughout the entire home, defining particular spaces, such as the entry, with area carpeting and rugs. All the cabinetry and panelling are made of a clear-stained satinwood, grown sustainably in South America. Wherever he could, he made use of natural materials with hues embracing the light and the sand outside. Hence, the home is bathed in the rich, organic tones of honey, topaz and driftwood.

The main floor powder room, with its onyx vanity top and panelled walls, "is a rich jewel box," Freedland says. Tile choices for the two full bathrooms and one half-bath, as well as linens and paint schemes throughout the home, all serve the ultimate goal of uniformity and calmness.

The master bedroom, the guest suite and walk-in closets, occupy the



top floor of the building.

"It's a totally private retreat floating above the entire ocean," Freedland says. "It's a spectacular space." Floor-to-ceiling glass soars to 16 feet on three sides, capturing the same views of Stanley Park, the Lions Gate Bridge and Mount Baker visible from the living room, which is directly below. The 300-square-foot deck perches right on the horizon, creating almost an infinity-like effect.

A butterscotch-toned leather headboard is flanked by wall-

mounted mirrors; they encourage light to move throughout the room no matter what the time of day. At night, darkness is achieved with motorized blackout shades.

The master bath is urbane, serene and bathed in diffused light, thanks to a 10- by 10-foot wall of privacy glass. The rich swirls of the vanity's butter and cream-coloured onyx (the same onyx featured downstairs in the powder room), is the only element of the room suggesting motion; everything else speaks of stillness, especially the sophisticated Duravit bathtub (with faucets by Dornbracht), which reclines on its own in front of the glass wall. An oversized shower with a deluxe array of Grohe sprays complete the spa-like atmosphere.

This well-feathered West Vancouver nest certainly accomplishes the goal of its acclaimed designer – that is, peace, literally, above it all. ♦

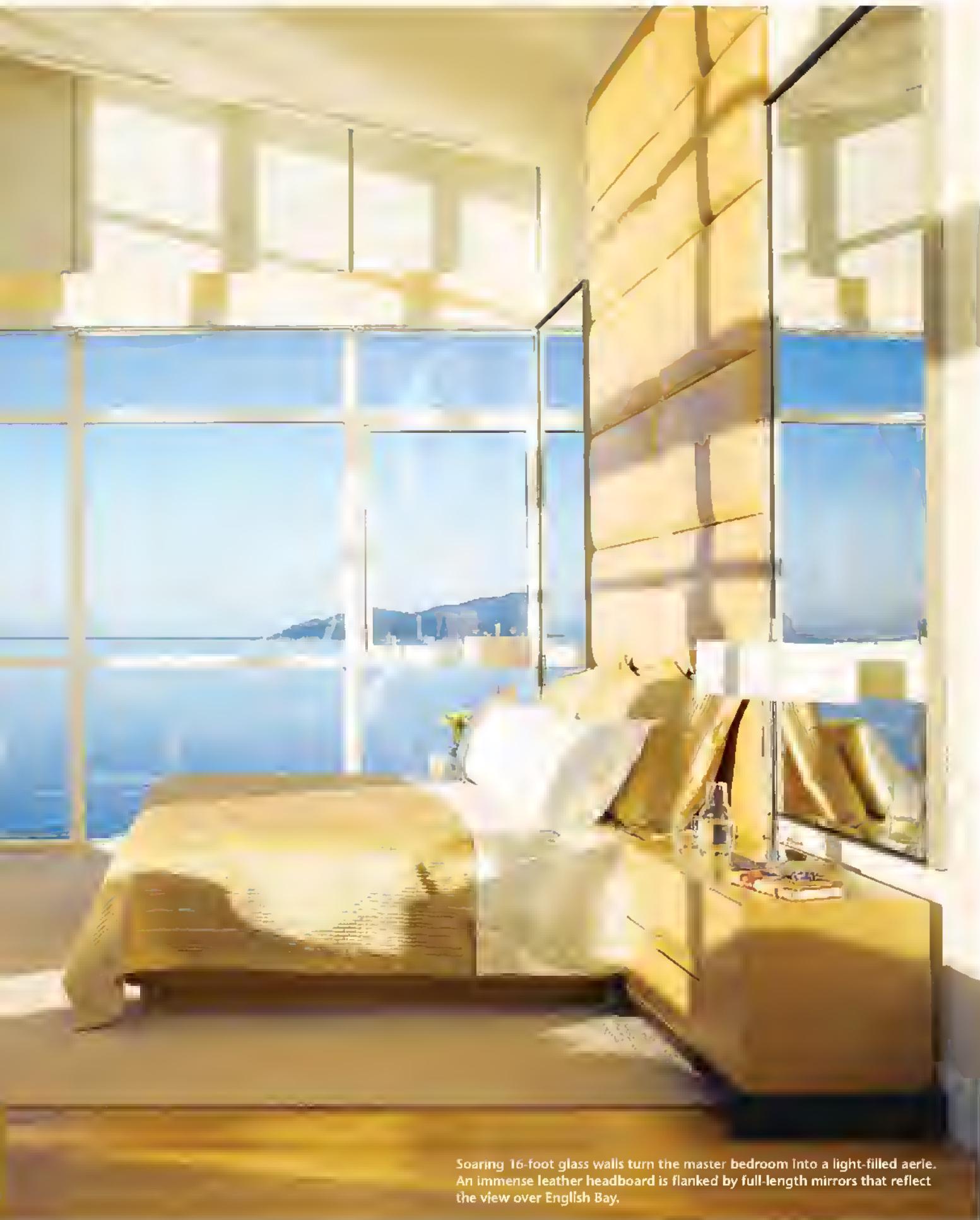
**Mitchell Freedland Design**

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PEACE ABOVE IT ALL





**Soaring 16-foot glass walls turn the master bedroom into a light-filled aerie. An immense leather headboard is flanked by full-length mirrors that reflect the view over English Bay.**

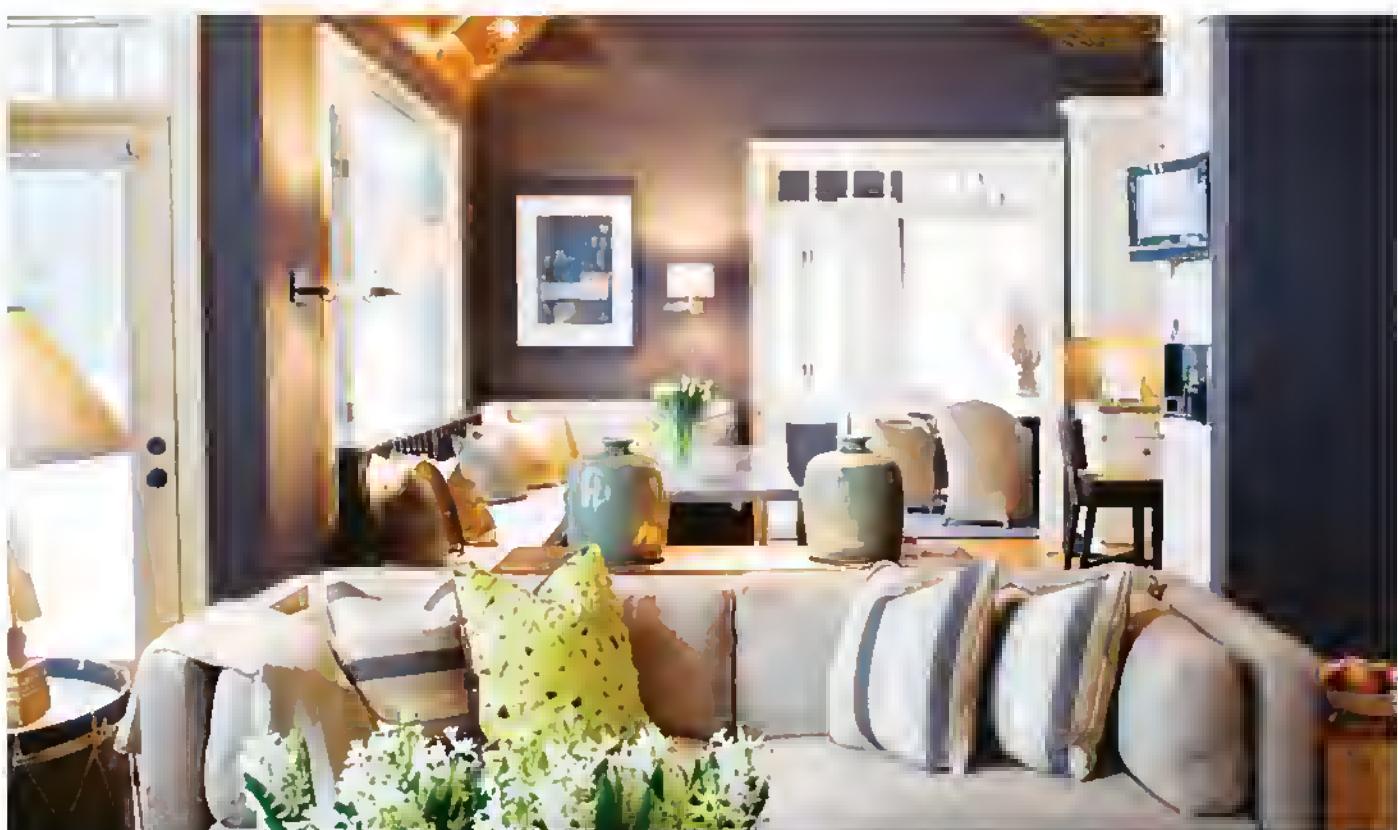
# POWERHOUSE Designers



A large red canoe (left) suspended from the beamed ceiling is reflected in the mirror that hangs above the solid pine mantelpiece. A pair of sleek, high-backed chairs flank the imposing stone fireplace; above, sophisticated charcoal grey chosen for the walls in the living room is repeated in the subtly striped sofa cushion.

# Sophistication by the shore

A RUSTIC GETAWAY IN THE MUSKOKAS GETS AN UPSCALE MAKEOVER BY BIG CITY DESIGNERS POWELL & BONNELL



Text by Danny Sinopoli

Photography by

Ted Yarwood

Interior Design by

Powell & Bonnell

**I**s there such a thing as "metropolitan rustic" style? If there wasn't before, there is now, as a luxuriously appointed two-level country home in Ontario's Muskoka region so elegantly demonstrates.

For generations, families from Toronto have been drawn to the area for its pristine lakes and forested expanses. While some travel there to commune with nature and perhaps even rough it, others seek to create retreats with the same levels of comfort they enjoy in the city. The client who commissioned the Toronto design firm Powell & Bonnell to design and

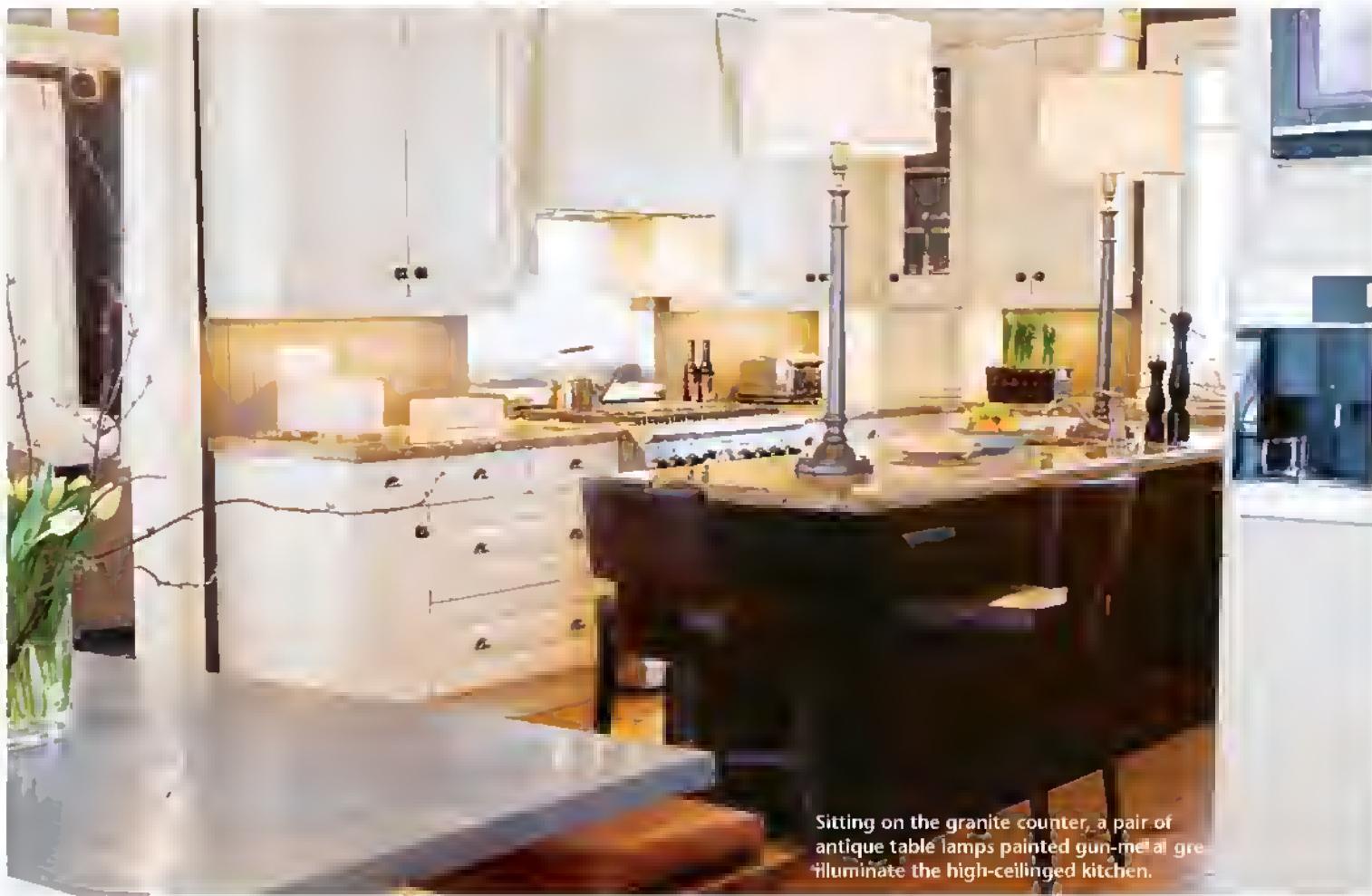
furnish a largely empty cottage on the shores of Lake Rosseau not long ago falls squarely in the latter camp. With its high-ceilinged rooms, magnificent fireplaces, fully appointed kitchen and striking custom furnishings, the 3,800-square foot home with on-site gym and nearby boathouse isn't so much a weekend refuge as an extension of the client's city life in the middle of the woods.

"We had worked on the client's home in Toronto and wanted to create a similar experience in the country," says Fenwick Bonnell, who oversaw the project with designer Albert





A coat of white paint solved the problem of the family room's "ugly" stone fireplace, above. Below, cream walls and dark wood furnishing in the bedrooms reverse the color scheme found in the living areas.



Sitting on the granite counter, a pair of antique table lamps painted gun-metal grey illuminate the high-ceilinged kitchen.

Limshue. Since the firm, which is renowned for its sophisticated urban interiors, had never tackled a cottage before, the logistics of working on a property in a remote location promised to be challenging, but the designers attacked the project with their typical meticulousness.

After canvassing the site, which the designers described as being "eyebrow deep in snow" when they first saw it, they set out on a six-to-eight-month process that included designing custom furniture, incorporating some of the client's existing pieces into the scheme and establishing the proper framework for it all.

"One of the first steps was to convince the client to paint out all the trim and walls," recalls Bonnell, who describes the "before" cottage as "cliche Muskoka, with pine everywhere." Doing so, he felt, would shift the focus to the soaring beamed ceilings on the main floor of the house and accentuate the sightline – perhaps the cottage's finest feature – from the front door of the home

to the living room's massive picture windows and Lake Rosseau beyond.

"It was really about walking in the door and being presented with a view of the lake and the hemlocks outside the windows," Bonnell's partner, David Powell, says.

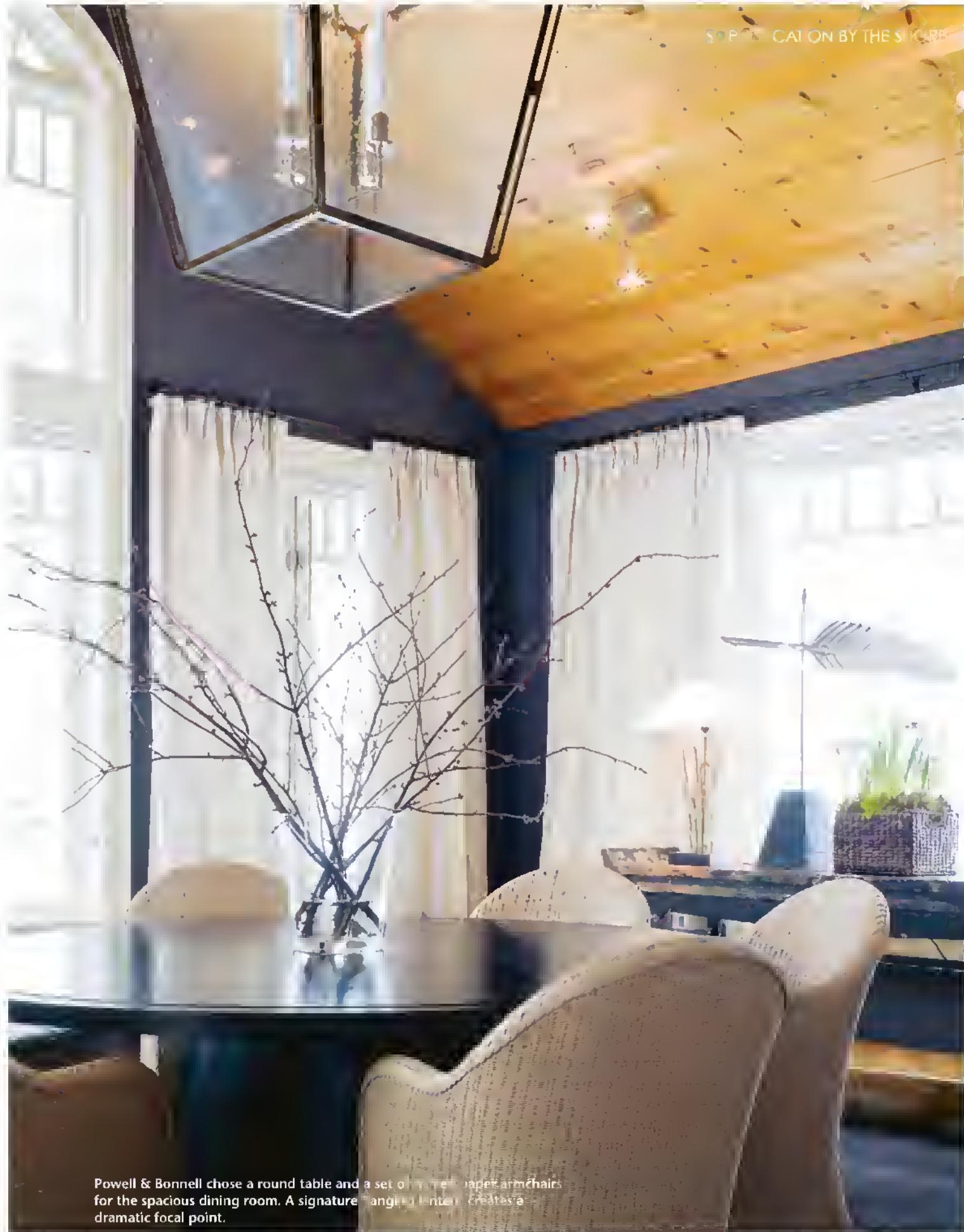
After the client agreed, the designers chose a handsome charcoal grey "to mitigate the effect of all the wood," Powell adds. It was used throughout the main floor, which also includes a kitchen and eating nook and extends into a separate dining room. The ceiling, as promised, was left untouched, allowing both it and an imposing stone fireplace with solid pine mantelpiece to dominate the main living room.

To furnish this space, the designers introduced a coordinated mix of semi-antique and custom pieces, including a pair of signature high-back chairs for in front of the fireplace, a massive glass-topped coffee table and a boxy rectangular bench with woven leather seat. To ground the space, they laid a chic area rug sporting earth-toned

stripes and a dark brown band. A large red fibreglass canoe – "one of the few pieces we kept from the original builder-owner," says Bonnell – hangs from the ceiling, lending both drama and an air of ruggedness to the room.

"Our intention was to bust the clichés of many cottages through strong lines, simple shapes and natural fabrics and colors," Bonnell explains. "We also wanted to give the impression that all of the furniture had been accumulated over time by the client, not just brought in at once."

In the adjoining kitchen and eating space, a similarly bespoke quality prevails. To illuminate the high-ceilinged kitchen, where the cabinetry and range hood were stripped of existing decorative flourishes and then painted a creamy white, Bonnell decked out the granite island top with two tall table lamps he found in an antique shop and spray-painted gun metal grey. For the eating nook, Limshue designed a



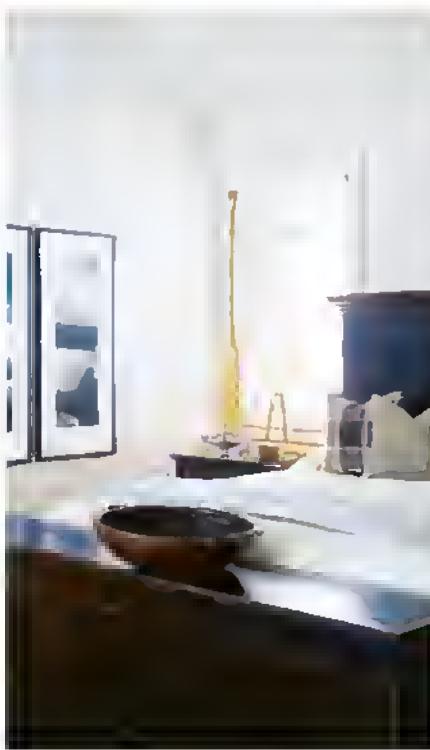
Powell & Bonnell chose a round table and a set of light-colored, upholstered armchairs for the spacious dining room. A signature angular sofa creates a dramatic focal point.



The breakfast nook's modern zinc-topped table and custom slatted bench bust the usual cottage clichés. Meanwhile the wooden bench with its leather cushion maintains a rustic tone.



Dark furnishings and cream-colored walls in the upstairs bedrooms reverse the color scheme found in the rest of the cottage. The foot board of the master bed pops open to reveal a flat-screened television.



unique slatted banquette – “a modern interpretation of a church bench,” as Powell describes it – to wrap around a modern zinc-topped table.

“A banquette was tricky to install there because the windowsill is a low one,” Powell says, adding that the open wood slats addressed that problem by creating a semi-transparent screen between the window and the seat. At the same time, the dark wood finish of the bench echoes the dark chocolate tone of the circular stained-pine table with distressed top in the adjoining dining room, which is surrounded on three sides by windows, “kind of like a pavilion,” Bonnell says.

“A rectangular table was originally in the room, but we went with a round one because it better suited the space,” he adds. Rounding out the furnishings in the dining room are a series of rattan-like woven-paper armchairs and an elegant four-foot-tall hanging lantern from Powell & Bonnell’s own furnishings line.

On the other side of the cottage, the bedroom is the only room on the main floor that isn't painted grey. "We toned it down in there," says Bonnell, referring to the chalky cream color on the bedroom walls. The lighter, softer shade provides an effective backdrop for two of the owner's own pieces of furniture: a glass-panelled cabinet the design team moved from the living room to a reading nook in the bedroom and a dark wood headboard they enhanced with a custom – and very high-tech – new feature.

"We designed the footboard to house the TV," Bonnell says. "A section of the top rises up with the TV underneath it."

The primary TV-watching room, however, is located on the lower level of the cottage, which has a lower ceiling than the vaulted spaces upstairs but offers a direct walkout to the woods and lake outside. One of the main challenges for the designers in this room was an "ugly" salmon-colored stone fireplace that used to dominate it; after convincing the client and even the contractor conducting the work of what they felt had to be done, they addressed the unsightly yet very prominent feature by painting it white.

"It's made of a porous, granular stone, so we had to coat it with concrete block filler and then paint it," Bonnell explains. "We also replaced an under-scale wood mantel with a larger piece." And the result? "The contractor was won over," Bonnell laughs.

And how could he not be? As a focal point, the reworked fireplace now possesses a crisp new freshness and a sophisticated yet still rustic elegance, much like the cottage itself.

"This was really our first cottage," Bonnell says of the project as a whole, "but we knew that we really didn't want to do a traditional cottage. It had to reflect our sensibility, have some sophistication."

On that front, they certainly came through.♦

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un-cottage-like wicker chairs, the reading nook in the master  
respite from the hurly-burly of busy cottage weekends

# POWERHOUSE Designers



# Unifying Forces

Meticulous attention to detail by designer Robert Ledingham lend heart and soul to a Vancouver home

Text by Janet Collins

Photography by Janice Nicolay

Interior Design by

Robert Ledingham Design

Glance out the windows, and you could be forgiven for thinking this gorgeous 10,000-square-foot home is tucked into a rural setting. In fact, it is situated in a residential neighbourhood on Vancouver's popular North Shore.

"There are clearly areas of the home meant for entertaining," says interior designer Robert Ledingham, "but this is also a family home." Much of the success of the design is due to themes that have become signatures of Ledingham's more than 40-year career: a largely neutral palette, meticulous attention to detail, and a sense of proportion that creates spaces that flow seamlessly together.

The effect begins in the aptly named great room. Here, full-height windows form a conduit between the indoor and outdoor areas.

At one end of the room, an open-







A limestone-trimmed fireplace adds a zen-like quality to the great room. Ledingham's neutral color palette provides a pleasing contrast to the wall of custom sapele cabinetry.



Sapele cupboards, black granite counters and stainless steel appliances give the kitchen an efficient uncluttered appeal. Above right, a wall of windows brings the outdoors in.



plan kitchen commands enough space for a dozen cooks. When the pantry door is shut, the back wall appears to be an uninterrupted expanse of sapele millwork. This echoes the opposite end of the great room with its wall of custom cabinets punctuated by a limestone-trimmed fireplace. Floating sapele panels suspended from the ceiling further unite the two areas of the room, and strengthen the connection between indoors and out.

"The ceiling panels also create a lighting solution," notes Frank Ranieri, senior designer with Ledingham Design Consultants who worked on the project. The wood panels serve to offset banks of lights. "We could have installed recessed lights," says Ranieri, "but at 2,000 square feet the room was so large there would be holes all over the ceiling before we had enough light. The fixtures we installed are commonly used in retail environments. They

can be focused, so they are very versatile."

The large windows running down the side of the space create plenty of natural light, which travels deep into the main level thanks to the installation of translucent panels on either side of the room's entry. Reminiscent of shoji screens, the panels incorporate a gauze insert between the panes of glass. As such, the panels mimic materials found throughout the great room, such as the woven fabric in the custom sofa and the sides of the accompanying lounge chairs.

Down the hall, another screen positioned outside the dining room picks up the texture of the linen-clad doors of the custom-designed oak buffet. In addition to providing much-needed storage space in the dining room, the green buffet front plays up the edging of the area carpet under the round mahogany dining table. The color here, and in the grass window shades is a reference to the outdoor environment. A





Turn into a spa-like sunroom, the last stop on a long walk on the deck. In addition to the swimming pool (right), the two-level house a guest suite, wine cellar, cigar room, A formal dining room (lower right) leads to the generously proportioned area.



The media room's cloth-covered wall panels hide the mechanics of a state-of-the-art entertainment system. Orange and green accent pillows punctuate the massive 24-foot-long sofa.

central light fixture incorporates the same ceiling lights used in the great room.

The library and study occupy a single room at the opposite end of the house, behind the great room. A sliding ladder aids access to upper shelves of the full-wall-height bookcases. A custom sofa and club chair provide seating in the library area. Behind the desk, large windows offer excellent views of the swimming pool below and the lush forest beyond. In addition to ample use of wood throughout the room, the two spaces are joined by a large area rug that covers much of the hardwood flooring.

A floor-to-ceiling leather headboard creates a focal point in the master bedroom, which is located on the upper level of the house. A custom table positioned over the bedside table runs the length of the wall beside the bed thereby reinforcing the generous size of that space. The master suite features a large dressing room with custom built-in shoe and sweater storage space. The ample



A dramatic floor-to-ceiling leather headboard is the focal point of the master bedroom. The custom bedside table extends the width of the room.



Wooden trusses and stone pillars create an impressive entry way to the 10,000 square foot home.

ensuite, which boasts a large ottoman and a custom rug, adjoins the master bedroom or the dressing room via pocket doors. Four other bedrooms, two of which also have ensuite baths, round out the upper level. These are the children's rooms. The color theme of each room is highlighted by the inclusion of a playful piece of furniture such as the large tomato-shaped beanbag chair in the red-themed room.

The lower floor might well be described as the play level. This is the location of the pool and Jacuzzi, which are surrounded by walls of glass under a 20-foot-high wood ceiling. This level is also home to an exercise area, games room, cigar room complete with wine cellar, and a guest/nanny suite.

The games room looks onto the conservatory and opens into the media room. The guts of the entertainment system (speakers, etc.) are tucked behind cloth-covered wall panels (which also aid acoustics) and the projector is housed in the bulkhead. The massive 24-foot sofa is possibly the largest piece of furniture Ledingham has ever designed. Brightly hued chairs and accent pillows create a playful energy, one that evokes the exuberance of a growing family at home in a house designed just for them. ♦

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